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Culture of Corruption

Politics and money override forestry science

If clearcutting all trees more than 120 years old on federal land in Lane County between I-5 and the Cascades is your idea of good forestry, you might like BLM's proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR). That's nearly all the older trees in the lower McKenzie, Mohawk, Fall Creek and Middle Fork Willamette basins.

What can they be thinking? You might well ask. BLM is accepting comments on the WOPR Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) until Jan. 11.

The WOPR proposes an array of highly questionable policies to replace the Northwest Forest Plan. (Triple the clearcuts without leaving any trees at all? More than two-thirds reduction in riparian buffers? Cutting 11,000 acres of Lane County old growth first and thinning younger stands later?)

The Forest Plan was created in 1994 as a scientifically sound compromise among dozens of top industry, academic and government scientists. Its basis was protecting the public waterways – the Aquatic Conservation Strategy – and an old growth ecological bellwether: northern spotted owls. Forest Plan timber harvest targets have never been hit, and the WOPR is the Bush administration's effort to up the timber cut.



The WOPR appears, frankly, incredible and inexplicable. Chances of it surviving scientific and legal scrutiny seem quite small. Scientists are already up in arms over WOPR. What are they thinking?

- Dozens of denied listings are under review within the agency, including the recent downsizing of northern spotted owl reserves – which directly affects the huge increases in timber cuts planned under the WOPR.

- Macdonald, who help write a denial of a fish listing which directly affected her own northern California ranch, spent the last several months of her abbreviated tenure at Interior interviewing for lobbying jobs working for trade groups in the industries she was supposed to be regulating.

- It appears that there is a culture of corruption in Interior which places political interests over science. The WOPR appears to be an example of this culture at work. Wyden has successfully demanded an ethics investigation by Interior's inspector general. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has a separate investigation under way.

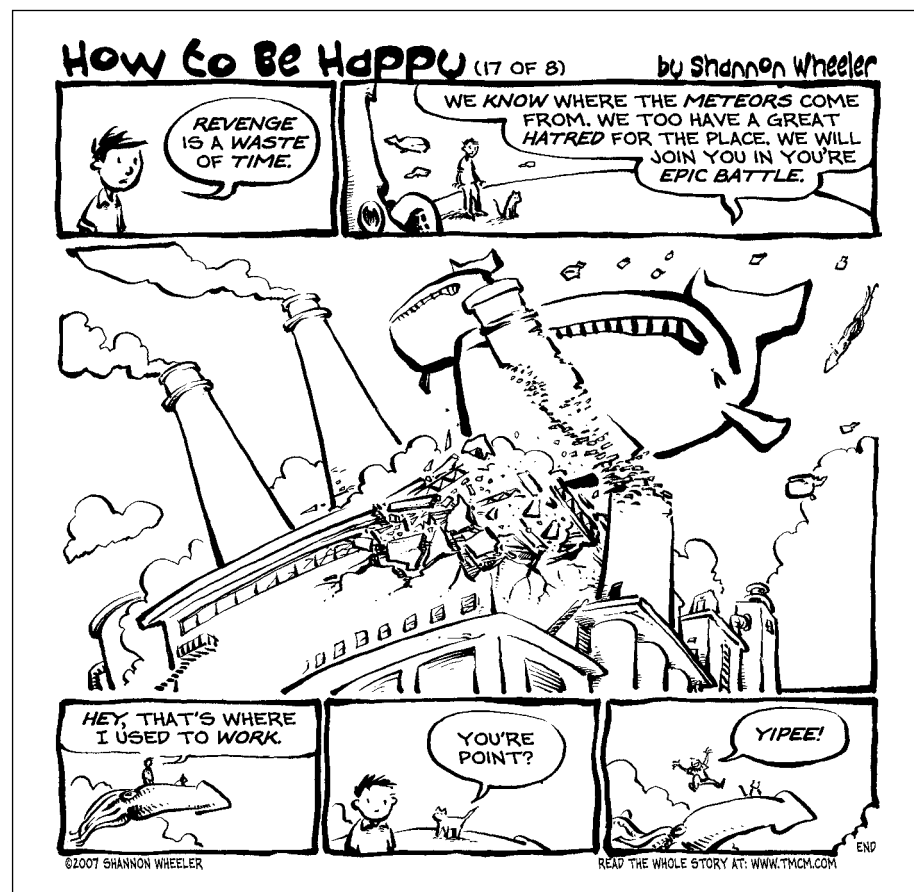
The WOPR's economic analysis was done by timber industry consultants from Boise, ignoring the work of highly respected Eugene economist Ed Whitelaw of EconW, who has long argued old-growth timber is more valuable to the local economy standing than turned into lumber.

Promises that timber revenues from logging under the WOPR will provide much needed money for county government are hollow as the WOPR's flaws guarantee protracted lawsuits and could even result in a reduction in county timber revenue – but we can depend on the ecological damage WOPR would wreak.

Your comments can help. Just Google BLM and WOPR and make a quick comment on BLM's excellent website. Ask for scientific evidence why the environmental protections of the NW Forest Plan were discarded. Request that they address the WOPR's effect on forest fires, global warming and the survival of old-growth ecosystems. Demand that cumulative effects of WOPR policies on upper Willamette spring Chinook salmon be considered.

Here's a tip of the hat to Sen. Wyden and our long-suffering BLM footsoldiers who are trying to do the right thing.

Fergus McLean is a Dexter forester working on creating the Jeffrey Mentzer Old Growth Park on BLM land 1/2



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HYPOCRISY BEGINS AT HOME

During the hotly debated Measure 36 campaign, many well-intentioned moderate supporters of that measure assured me that they were not bigots. Nor were they interested in denying my partner and me fair legal protections enjoyed by married heterosexuals. Essentially, they had no issue with civil unions; it was "only" marriage to which they objected.

These well-intentioned moderates were reassured by the language used in "Yes on 36" literature targeting uncommitted voters. The pro-36 pamphlets and letters promised that this was not a matter of bigotry, nor did Measure 36 seek to deny equal protections.

Why am I not surprised in the hypocrisy of the outcry that arose from the conservative backers of Measure 36 when our Legislature took action to provide fair and equal legal protections to all Oregon citizens? And why is not surprising that a group from outside our state sought to challenge the legality of Oregon's initiative process? Aren't these largely social and political conservatives? Don't they constantly shout for "states rights"? Why would they appeal to a federal court to overturn the action of a state legislature? Maybe they only want to champion states rights and individual freedoms when such rights and freedoms align with their narrow-minded ethics? Hypocrisy? It begins at home.

Craig Willis
Eugene

SPARE NO CHANGE

I was stopped at a red light at 11th and Chambers when I noticed an unfortunate holding a sign which read "CHANGE NEEDED." I agreed in the broadest sense of the phrase possible.

Glenn Leonard
Eugene

MOVE IT TO THE WEB

Reading the past few months' worth of "Ask A Mexican!" "Savage Love" meth and sex ads letters, I've discovered that I might possibly be the only person in our fair community to not throw in his or her two

cents, so here goes:

I think "Savage Love," "Ask A Mexican!" and those controversial ads are sometimes very effective in achieving what they are trying to achieve, and sometimes not. Pretty much like everything else in your (or, honestly, ANY) newspaper or magazine. If you want to run them, I can't and won't stand in your way, and in fact, I say "more power to you."

But if I could make one suggestion to you — howabout we take all the letters to the editor debating the merits or horrors of the aforementioned ads and columns, publish them on your website only and then take all those column inches in your print edition and use them for more articles and interviews about local bands, artists, actors, activists and so on? I'd personally love more of your paper to be about, say, "What's Happening in Eugene" rather than "What's Happening in Eugene Weekly."

Wouldn't we all? Whaddayathink?

Russell Dyball
Eugene

CHAINSONG NEIGHBORHOOD

I have lived in the Whiteaker for several years, and I have heard more chainsaws in my neighborhood than I care to hear. The Public Works Department leaves signs on trees denoting their declining health and their potential hazard to the community, followed by their intention to remove said trees. The notice also states, that, "In recognition of the important value to the community of this tree, a replacement tree shall be planted."

You left this notice on a tree in the Whiteaker Community Garden three years ago, yet you did not replace the tree. In fact, when I replaced the tree for you (with an endangered chestnut variety that I fight to preserve) you dug it up. I suspect that your tree removal policy is based upon convenience rather than social responsibility.

Other examples are the former tree in front of High Street Cafe. Was that removal really necessary? Was there any public discourse on the topic? What gives you the right to remove a commodity in minutes that took decades to grow?

FEWER OPTIONS FOR DISABLED HOMELESS

As a member of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to finance homelessness and housing programs, I was eager to read your article on homelessness in the Dec. 27 Weekly.

I joined the committee because I see someone with a disability who is desperate for shelter on an almost weekly basis. The last two were elderly women, one in her late 60s and the other in her 80s. They came separately to Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA) around the holidays. Both women used walkers for mobility. Neither was able to stay at the Mission because of their mobility limitations and other issues related to their disabilities.

Since the Mission is a private religious organization, it is not obligated to offer equal access to people with disabilities. It does a wonderful job of providing shelter to the population it serves. However, people with many kinds of disabilities cannot stay at the Mission and have nowhere else to go.

Other shelters in the county have specific criteria that need to be met before an individual is admitted. Merely being older and/or having a disability or multiple disabilities does not qualify a person for shelter space in this community. Senior and Disabled Services and Adult Protective Services also have pretty stringent limitations on the people they can assist. They were really hit hard by budget cuts a few years ago.

Neither of the women who came to LILA qualify for residential assistance. They would have to get much more disabled first. They both receive Social Security, but it's not enough cover rent, even if they are able to maintain an independent apartment without a caregiver and other support. Since it was close to the end of the month, both women had spent their Social Security checks trying to stay warm and fed. Medication and personal hygiene weren't even a consideration. The very basic necessities that give us a sense of security and self worth were not remotely available for these folks.

LILA is nonresidential, but we do what we can. Part of our mission is to advocate for the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. The rest is to give people with disabilities the skills and support to survive as independently as possible in the community. Seniors with disabilities left out in the cold and wet aren't likely to survive very well, and I certainly wouldn't call being homeless in December independent living.

In one case we were able to scrounge up enough donations, some from the Mayor's Committee members, to temporarily put one woman in a private recovery house, give her some warm clothes (she came to LILA with slippers on bare feet) and work with her on a more permanent solution. After spending an afternoon at LILA while our staff tried to find her a bed, the other woman decided to spend the weekend moving from McDonalds to IHOP to stay alive in the cold.

I understand all the arguments against having a publicly funded shelter. A shelter is hugely expensive to run, and chances are voters won't agree to fund one. A shelter isn't a permanent solution to the problem of homelessness. However, I believe Eugene and Springfield can find some way make a little room at the inn for people whose only offense is that they are poor, older and disabled.

Lynne McKinney
LILA Independent Living Services Manager
Eugene

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Hacking Away

Oregon's land-use program under constant attack

Since its inception 35 years ago, Oregon's land-use program has been under attack from the same forces that brought us Measure 37. Little by little, lot by lot, timber and real estate interests, developers and their enablers in legislatures, commissions, councils and land management divisions have been busy night and day eviscerating the system.

In 2004, taking advantage of a pro-growth governor, an ignorant, inattentive and greedy public and anemic opposition, self-serving, anti-government opportunists transformed Oregon from a positive to a negative model of land use protection. Ironically, the passage of Measure 37 helped defeat similar measures in other states.

To "fix" M37, Measure 49 supporters delivered to posterity one of the most extreme property rights laws in the country. They undermined the foundation of Oregon's land use program by reaffirming the premise of Oregonians in Action and (other) Republicans that government takes away people's rights rather than creates and protects them, that people must be paid for following the law or the law must be eliminated.

As temperatures rise, water and oil supplies drop, and a recession lurks behind the next stock report, voters fast-tracked sprawl of up to three houses on prime farm and forest land and even on groundwater-restricted land and conceded as many as 10 houses if loss of value can be substantiated. As if these provisions were not generous enough, M49, unlike M37, allows development rights to be transferred and even offers an ombudsman to grease the skids. Around 7,500 M37 claims have been staked statewide, with additional claims possible under M49.

Adding insult to injury, the governor and his fellow Democrats in the Legislature are eager to revive the Big Look Task Force to "reform" Oregon's land-use laws. With its first look, this development-biased committee found that "Oregon's land use system has protected the agricultural and forestry land base" and "has contained sprawl." Little wonder that a committee so near-sighted faulted the land use program for accommodating too little growth. The Big Look should take another look only if the Legislature appoints new members with 20-20 vision.

Not to be upstaged, *The Register Guard*, in a recent editorial, urged state and local governments to go easy on "vested rights" of M37 claimants and "to allow some subdivisions or commercial and industrial development." Perhaps the editor had in mind the owner of 41 acres of farmland in Yamhill County who "vested" by hastily cobbling together 41 10' by 10' cabins on the 41 one-acre lots of his M37 claim.

Instead of the fix it was touted to be, M49 adds more cogs to an economic engine long overheated by the unlimited use of limited resources. Accumulating and rapidly accelerating environmental crises have made it abundantly clear, however, that growth – smart or otherwise – cannot be accommodated and that a new paradigm is in order.

We can begin by re-prioritizing Oregon's 19 land use goals. Presently, economy is king and the natural environment and farm and forest resources are its abused servants. Under Goal 5: Natural Resources, for example, gravel industry needs trump the protection of farms, forests, wetlands and riparian corridors regardless of the ecological imperative to reduce or eliminate the markets that industry supplies.

State goals must be amended so that clean air and water and abundant productive soils are the foundation of a fertile local economy. An economy that recognizes and develops within natural limits could maintain and sustain indefinitely at a steady state in a closed resource, product and waste loop.

Statewide, I believe we must and we will see the emergence of groups like Lane County's Willamette Farm and Food Coalition (WFFC) as key players in the effort to create a secure and sustainable local food economy. This year the WFFC formed a Farmland Preservation Committee that, among other tasks, will ask county commissioners to inventory and map Lane County's farmland as a first step in establishing agricultural reserves both within and outside urban growth boundaries.

This grassroots, on-the-ground, in-the-ground renaissance reminds us that the true meaning of economy – to economize – is to be frugal, to bring our wants closer in line with our needs, to reduce the size of our carbon footprint. No better place to begin than our own backyards.

It'll be a tough row to hoe, however, with the governor recently saying that slow growth is not acceptable, and the Big Look Task Force looking for ways to help him accelerate growth.

For a governor and Legislature seeking more money for more jobs to build more houses and more roadways for more people to produce more waste, more pollution and fewer resources – and more opportunity to do so under M49 – a few words from *Walden* provide counsel: "A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone."

Robert Emmons of Fall Creek is president of LandWatch Lane County, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Lane County's farms, forests and open space from urban sprawl.



I have some questions for the Public Works Department: Why do you lie to us? You haven't replaced anything that you have removed. Why do you remove things that I will never be able to enjoy in my lifetime because it is convenient for you to maintain? Did you think that we wouldn't notice? I hope your karma can handle this because mine wouldn't.

Davy Ray
Eugene

GABACHO RACISM

Dear Ms Yamada and Mr. Sprague: I have some comments regarding your letters to the editor printed on Dec. 20. Gabacho racism is still racism, as is Latino racism is still racism. If either of you read last week's (12/20) "¡Ask a Mexican!" with an open and not a "liberal," bleeding heart-filled mind, you would understand that Arellano is a Mexican nationalist and not the humanitarian, compassionate human rights advocate he so slyly portrays himself to be.

I feel the complaints that I expressed in my Nov. 22 letter are justified with Arellano's latest tantrum, and therefore, Mr. Sprague, how can you claim "¡Ask a Mexican!" is "not mean-spirited"? The "liberal" rich fog that your mind is blanketed with is contrary to your asking of readers "be careful not to close your minds too quickly!" You go on to say "mainstream media is a very significant reason why there is not outright revolution in this country."

I ask you: What is the very significant reason why there is not outright revolution in Mexico? I'll answer: The flight of tens of millions of poor, uneducated, superstitious people from their homes in Mexico to go to the U.S. Whether entering with our OK or without is not relevant, it's the fleeing that matters, and also sending billions of dollars back to prop up the illegitimate Mexican government.

That old cliché, "You can't solve your problems by running away from them" definitely applies here. Though Mexican immigrants' rights advocates don't think it applies to them. The greater threat to immigrants from Mexico is NOT the white dominated government of the U.S., it's the Catholic church. Those with true open minds have already figured it out.

What about personal responsibility? The immigrant advocates also seem to think that it does not apply to the poor immigrants. Everyone needs to take responsibility for themselves; responsibility to improve one's life, to lift oneself out of poverty, to become educated and use common sense and not live life superstitiously, and not expect others to throw you a lifeline! As for the subdued masses in the U.S., we have subdued our-

selves by allowing this shit to continue. We are too easily pleased, lazy and enjoy the good life.

Blame not the media, for the media are a creation by people and run by people. We allowed these people to get the best of us and they are only a few and we are too lazy to stop them.

I haven't forgotten about you, Ms. Yamada. The appropriate title of your letter should have been, "Don't Mexicans Get It"? I, as a human being of Dominican parents, know many Mexicans don't like other Latinos who aren't Mexican and want a "Mexicans only" access to the U.S., yet you and others want to bury that negative side regardless how true it is. Forty percent of Mexicans are in poverty, 45 percent of Dominicans, and 70 percent of Haitians. Are you a Mexican nationalist advocate? Are you a human rights advocate? You can't be both. Take another read of Arellano and drop your Mexican Catholic mentality, then you'll see your eyes were closed all along.

Juana Garcia
Eugene

LIFE IS OFFENSIVE

In response to Matt Watkins' letter, "Bring Us Together" (and somewhat in regard to Mark Harris' viewpoint, both Dec. 27), the problem here is the padding provided by political correctness. It's not just upper middle-class white folk. (There were many sensitive folks of Latin heritage in uproar over Arellano's column). The problem is those who insist on the cushioning of the art of Correct Politeness. This political art form has slowed to a crawl the United States' progress at combating its problem with racism.

Humor is our only hope at this point. And people should be made to roll their eyes and squirm. Life is offensive. Eugene is not a place to move to escape who you are and what you can, and probably should, become (strong). Tact should be used, especially in public settings (unlike the guy in blackface at the OSU-Stanford game). But in an "intellectually progressive" weekly, you will be tested. Get used to it. But when you make truly cruel "nigger" and "spic" jokes, you are gay. Gay like Bush. Gay like Hitler. Not gay like Dan Savage.

Todd Zimmerman
Eugene

STEP AWAY FROM THE BURGER

Regarding one of the most idiotic statements I have heard in awhile: "McDonald's is one of the worst decimators of our planet and single-handedly contributing to obesity in this country" by Kay Porter (12/27). I find it "alternately appalling" that someone with

WHO YOU GONNA BLAME?

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drawing as therapy

by harvey dixon



toast2850@yahoo.com

any self-discipline or rationality would say such a thing. McDonald's CEOs do not come to your home, hold you hostage and threaten your life until you eat a cheeseburger and french fries.

We live in America; you have the right to walk away from the deep fried foods.

One more thing, in your description of McDonald's as being "one of the worst decimators of our planet," you fail to mention all the wonderful contributions McDonald's actually has control over. I am sure you have never heard of the Ronald McDonald House. To enlighten you, it is one of the most charitable and supportive organization directed towards families of serious ill children.

Now, I am not saying McDonald's is the greatest corporation in history, but deeming it responsible for obesity? No way. And for all of our sake, *obese* people are single handedly contributing to *obesity* in this country; there is some sensibility.

Kathleen Konrady
Eugene

WOPR DEADLINE

I was disappointed that *EW* didn't cover the Dec. 21 rally against WOPR, the BLM's plan to clear-cut their old-growth forests in Oregon. I was particularly disappointed because *EW* has given plenty of coverage to global warming; and the deforestation caused by WOPR would accelerate global warming. Other than running paid ads from groups opposing WOPR, *EW*'s major contribution to this issue was an article in September regarding the Rogue River. While WOPR does threaten some particularly beautiful areas, its impact would be felt all over western Oregon in the form of habitat loss, water quality degradation, flooding, and major losses to the recreation and fishing industries. It would also accelerate climate change around the globe by turning 2.6 million acres of old growth into clear cuts.

We can do several things to fight WOPR. First, we need to comment to the BLM by Jan. 11. Comments are important because

they will help the environmental lawyers trying to stop WOPR, since their evidence will be restricted to citizen comments. For comment strategies and a link to the BLM, visit www.oregonheritageforests.org

Second, we need to tell our congressional delegation to actively pursue legislation that protects Oregon's old growth, to seek county payments that are de-coupled from logging, and to come out publicly against WOPR.

Third, we need to give this information to friends outside of Eugene. Since the BLM is a national agency, comments on WOPR will be accepted from around the US.

Please help protect Oregon's forests.

Carol McBrian
Eugene

PLAY BY THE RULES

I'd like to make a couple of things clear to those so-called immigrants' rights advocates. First, you're lying when you say immigrants' rights; it's all about "illegal" immigrants rights. Second, there is very little if any, as Ken Neubeck of the Amigo Multicultural Services Center puts it, "anti-immigrant hostility;" there is, however, anger towards "illegal aliens," those who think they can ignore the requirements to enter this country — *legally*.

Last I heard, this entire planet is divided into territories and tribes, and all of us have to play by the rules for travel no matter how absurd they may be. Yes, there are supremacists of all colors who hate others. They will always exist and don't use them as an excuse to promote your self-serving agenda.

Now, on to the "Ask a Doofus" column writer Gustavo Arellano. He claims to "slam people and challenge everything they believe about Mexicans." He also says he goes after Mexicans who are racist against darker skinned Mexicans. My reading of Arellano's column is that he spends most of his time slamming people who are not of Mexican heritage. How much time has he spent slamming Mexico's imprisonment of Guatemalans and El Salvadorans and others

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Eating Our Way Forward

Pushing the market with our buying habits toward a food secure future

The year 2007 was a year of high visibility on the local food front. With concerns raised about the safety of foods shipped in from other countries, books published on tales of local eating and 100-mile diets, and the Oxford University Press voting *locavore* as the word of the year, who could help but to take a moment to ponder their pantry?

Here in Lane County, 30,000 copies of our own *Locally Grown* directory were snatched up in six months. In August we were visited by a singing duo, the Ditty Bops, on a tour of America's farms (small van), and the Sustainable Table group from New York on a local foods tour (big bus). Both groups ate their way across the country to the September Farm Aid concert in New York, talking and singing up the tenets of responsible eating: food grown without detriment to the environment, delivered with minimum fossil fuels, in a manner that does not exploit farmers.

Hopefully this media frenzy got a few more of us to the Farmers' Market or convinced us to join a CSA program or to look more closely at the little stickers on the produce in the grocery aisle and ask questions or inspired us to grow edibles in our own back yards. We cannot underestimate the importance of our individual food choices, but what will it take to nudge buying local to the next level, to get our institutions sourcing local foods?

First there is willingness. A year ago, Woodbury County in Iowa mandated that any county purchases of food in the usual course of business would be (subject to availability) locally produced food. Could Lane County be next? Or the green city of Eugene?

Next there is infrastructure. While area schools may have wellness policies stating that they will purchase local or organic foods when possible, it turns out that our small farms can seldom meet the produce needs of a large school district. And the district food service cannot handle deliveries from a dozen different farms, and they often need the vegetables in a washed or peeled or chopped form. So now we're looking at needing local cold storage, small scale processors and a distribution system that consolidates and delivers. The question remains, are we planning for this in our food future?

Whether you are a chef in a restaurant, a food processor, or a food service employee at a school, hospital, or government agency, don't miss the upcoming opportunity to explore and deepen your local marketing connections. **Local Food Connection: Linking Farmers, Fishers and Food Buyers** will be held at Lane Community College on Monday, Feb. 4, 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. This is a free matchmaking event for growers and buyers, a chance to find new sources or new accounts, as well as to discuss strategies, successes and barriers. Hosted by Cascade Pacific RC&D and sponsored by EWEB, OSU and Oregon Tilth, this is the southern valley's version of the famed Portland based Farmer-Chef Connection Conferences. Register by Jan. 25 at cascadepacific.org/category/food.

And for a chance to take the eat local challenge in winter, the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition and the Helios Resource Network are holding the next in the series of "Eat Here Now" local food potlucks on Saturday, Jan. 19. The focus this time around, in addition to eating and networking, will be farmer appreciation, so bring a dish to pass and come thank the farmers fostering the viability and sustainability of our local food system. Challenge yourself to prepare something with local ingredients and enter the "How Local Can You Go?" contest. A prize will go to the tastiest dish with the most local ingredients.

The "Eat Here Now: Farmer Appreciation and Local Foods Community Potluck" is from 6 to 9 pm Jan. 19 at the First United Methodist Church, on 13th and Olive in Eugene. The suggested donation of \$5 gets your name in the door prize drawing.

Co-sponsoring organizations include: EWEB's Healthy Farms Program, Lane County Food Policy Council, Lost Valley Education Center, Slow Food Eugene, and the Willamette Valley Sustainable Foods Alliance.

For more information on either event, call 341-1216.

Lynne Fessenden is the executive director of the Willamette Farm and Food Coalition, a community non-profit promoting the purchase of locally grown and produced foods to keep our small farms viable and to strengthen our local economy (lanefood.org).



who got arrested for being in Mexico "illegally"? According to the Comision Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, Mexico's human rights commission, there are approximately 800 people from Latin American countries other than Mexico who are in Mexican jails just for being in Mexico "illegally." That's a conservative figure.

The dirty little secret in Mexico is that the Mexican government wants the U.S. unskilled labor market for itself. Mexico's southern border has thousands of troops to "dissuade" non-Mexican migrants from entering their country to get to the U.S.

Arellano and other Mexican nationalists and open border groups want an open border with the U.S. They want all the benefits that legal immigrants and citizens get. They also think they are entitled to U.S. citizenship. Most citizens and legal immigrants don't think they are entitled. I don't either. Does that make me and others racists and hate mongers? It does not. I and most others feel the policy of looking the other way when someone crosses the border without permission, and the pressure relief valve which the U.S. has turned into for Mexico, has to change.

Arellano needs to put his energy into encouraging Mexicans to stay and fight for economic and social equality in Mexico. It's also time to improve the educational system in Mexico. When all of that happens, you can kick the U.S. and its corporations out. Arellano and other "immigrants" rights activists find it easier to criticize and fight the guilt-ridden Anglo-Americans than to criticize and fight the Mexican rich elite and their corrupt puppet government. Some are fighting; they are the poor of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Arellano and others can learn something from them. Time for Gustavo to use his geeky wit for a worthy cause.

Chris Williamson
Eugene

NASTY POLITICS

What a nasty ending to the State of the County Address! Bobby Green and his cohorts decided to halt the rotating job of chairmanship and give Faye Stewart another year. Why? Bobby Green, Bill Dwyer and Faye Stewart still can't believe that their unfair, regressive flat tax was overwhelmingly defeated by the citizens of Lane County. They must still believe that it was a tax that should have passed. Because of this they appear to still hold a grudge against Pete Sorenson and Bill Fleenor for not supporting their tax, and I'm really concerned that this county is in for some difficult times if they can't work together. Maybe it is time to find new commissioners more in tune with the voters.

Ruth Duemler
Eugene

NOT LEPROSY

I'm always a week or so behind in my reading (three weeks if it's *The New Yorker*), so I only just saw the swell article by Molly Templeton on "Swift Reads: Cute, weird, funny gift books." I was glad to see her mention *Logorrhea*, a book with stories inspired by winners of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

I wanted to let readers know that, in addition to the Portland writer Jay Lake, Eugene writer Leslie What, aka me, also has a story in that anthology, called "Tsuris," a word that

relates to both the 1982 Scripps National Spelling Bee award-winning word "psoriasis" and the biblical disease "tzaraas" (often incorrectly translated as leprosy — and not a Scripps National Spelling Bee award-winning word).

Leslie What
Eugene

CHERRY PICKING

The earth is an extension of our bodies. The Forest Service and the liquidating Industry use words like thinning, salvage, stewardship, safety, etc. to mask the fact that it is still extracting the lungs of our planet. Extraction! What comes to mind is the painful pulling of parts from my body. Think of a child being violated over and over again. Do we stop the violator? I hope so, but yet the forests continue to be the victim.

Can America trust the government to obey the law? The record on national forests says no. Only 5 percent of our virgin forests remain. Tim Hermach has and will always be strong in his conviction to save the national forests, defending life and liberty through education. He would never misrepresent studies of any kind, whether due to sloppiness or purposeful cherry picking.

Information in his article comes from USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. "The number of trees killed in the Biscuit fire was highest in the thinned areas we studied, most likely due to slash left after the thinning treatment," Raymond explains. It saddens me to think that Mr. Nagle, Perry, and Fairbanks would purposely or dishonestly point fingers even if it were due to their sloppiness or purposeful cherry picking to support a point of view.

Johnny VanHerwaarden
Eugene

EUGENE'S URBAN BLIGHT

While much attention has focused on problems with unnecessarily restrictive Eugene city codes that inhibit positive development in our downtown area, very little has been said or done by City Council to update codes that could restrain some of the wild and woolly, directionless infilling taking place in some of our most (formerly) desirable older neighborhoods.

A dramatic example is the Friendly Street neighborhood, specifically the area bordered by 24th and 29th avenues. Although there are a number of well kept homes in the neighborhood, there is also a run of several houses that look like they should be condemned. Broken windows, trash piled high on porches, junk cars and buses permanently occupying driveways, "free" boxes with soggy clothing and bedding left next to sidewalks, a Tyvek-wrapped house seemingly frozen in remodel limbo, street signs missing for years.

And that is *nothing* compared to the blight of the alleyways. Don't dare walk the alley between Friendly and Adams from 24th up to 25th Avenue. The pallets piled high as an elephant's eye are not only an eyesore, but in dry weather they are a fire hazard. Willy-nilly infill has led to homes built right on the alley with tenants forced to park in the mud and muck that has become a thoroughfare for lowlife. Gracing this disaster area is the real icing on the mudpie: a 20-foot high, 30-foot long white-tarp-wrapped sailboat looming over the alley and nearly touching powerlines, negating any privacy adjacent neighbors might have had before this backyard be-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

came a dry dock for dead ships (it is only the largest of several boats lining the alley).

This situation might be just another case of urban blight, just an aesthetic wart. But one of the byproducts of this lack of updated building codes has led to what some now call Eugene's dirty little secret, the problem nobody wants to talk about: the rediverting of water flow because of unrestrained infill.

A friend of mine who has lived in the Friendly neighborhood for 25 years had a bone-dry crawlspace beneath the house until two years ago when the infill activity became almost feverish. When several hundreds of gallons of water started to fill the crawlspace after heavy rains, we knew something dramatic had changed the neighborhood, this time something at an even deeper level than mere aesthetics.

Eugene sorely needs updating of its codes, not just to untie the binding codes that inhibit the lively evolution of its downtown, but new codes that can keep mindless infill from destroying its once lovely, older neighborhoods. Perhaps this will begin with the election of some more proactive city councilors?

B.D.May
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 250 words, keep submissions to once a month and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to editor@eugeneweekly.com (please put "letters" in the subject line), fax to 484-4044 or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



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STATE OF THE CITY

Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy celebrated Eugene and outlined her goals for 2008 at her State of the City speech Jan. 8 to several hundred applauding people in the Hult Center lobby.

"I believe absolutely in the power we have individually and collectively to make change," Piercy said. "Cities are where it all happens; where people live, work, raise families, and establish roots."

In 2008 Piercy called for the city to work on: sustainability, climate protection, west Eugene transportation, homelessness, downtown, potholes, the Olympic trials, considering an independent performance auditor, locating McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center in Eugene, hiring a new city manager, creating a youth advisory board, protecting the Amazon headwaters and basin, and becoming an official Human Rights City.

Piercy played a public role in ending the "decades-long, acrimonious debate over the West Eugene Parkway" in favor of saving money, pollution, sprawl and wetlands. But she said the freeway was unlikely to be built anyway. "It was clear that the funding for this project was simply not there and that federal approval was likely never to occur."

The mayor called for "common ground" on downtown. She noted that "much of it is already doing well," including: Fifth Street Public Market, East Broadway, the proposed Beam redevelopment and the new Enterprise call center, WestTown affordable housing and KLCC offices. Piercy said to fix the rest, the city should "focus public safety efforts on our problem blocks, address rundown storefronts, tweak codes, increase cultural and recreational activities in the area, and look at parking restrictions."

Piercy said McKenzie-Willamette should be in Eugene where it can effectively provide health care for our community, support our tax base, and where, if needed, we can have some influence on significant health care policies."

The mayor called for "large reductions in building and transportation emissions" to address climate change. She said she hopes that with new state requirements that ODOT reduce carbon the state freeway agency "will respond to climate change and finite resources, allowing it to be more creative and energy-conscious, rather than simply laying more roads."

Piercy allowed city councilors to speak at the event if they chose. Councilor Bonny Bettman gave a "minority report" calling for an independent auditor, in-house city attorney, hiring a reform-minded city manager and terminating the city's urban renewal districts.

Bettman said an auditor is needed to provide the council unbiased information for policy making. She said citizens will have to be "vigilant" that the position is not "co-opted" to minimize its power, similar to what the councilor said happened with the new police auditor.

To avoid conflicts of interest with other clients, the city should hire an in-house city attorney like those employed by most cities its size, Bettman said. The council could direct the new city manager to do this, she said.

Bettman said the council should hire a manager who "confidently embraces reform" and is "not just another figurehead to assume the position at the helm of an entrenched organizational power structure."

Urban renewal diverts money from schools and government services and attracts speculators that neglect property while holding out for public subsidies, according to Bettman. "It is like having a hole in your pocket."

Councilor Betty Taylor also spoke briefly. She called for a living wage ordinance and a youth center downtown as well as a performance auditor and in-house attorney. See more on Piercy's State of the City speech, including a slideshow, at blogs.eugene-weekly.com — Alan Pittman

See Alan Pittman's blog for photos and the full text of the Mayor's speech.



'Cities are where it all happens,' says Piercy

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



news Briefs

RESENTENCING FOR LUERS CHANGED

The resentencing date for Eugene eco-arsonist Jeffrey "Free" Luers has been rescheduled for Jan. 15, from the original date of Jan. 8, according to Lane County Circuit Court.

Luers has been in prison since 2001 for setting fire to three SUVs. He is currently awaiting his hearing in Lane County Jail. His original sentence of 22 years and eight months was reversed in February 2007 by the Oregon Court of Appeals. He will get a new sentence with a possible reduction of 10-12 years.

According to the web page maintained by his supporters (www.freefreenow.org), the arson at Romania Chevrolet "caused only \$40,000 in damages and the cars were later resold." Luers was also convicted of at-

tempted arson at the Tyree Oil depot. The purpose of setting the fires, the webpage says, "was to raise awareness about global warming and the role that SUVs play in that process."

In an email announcement about the original hearing date, Luers' supporters asked that only family and close friends attend the hearing, due to limited space in the courtroom. They also wrote that "protest or similar activity would be acting against the wishes of Jeff and his family." — Camilla Mortensen

KICK-START AN INDOOR MARKET?

Eugene community activist and fundraiser Erin Ely is known for her involvement in Billionaires for Bush, the Village School and the Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center, and now she's turning her attention to raising seed money for an indoor farmers market in Eugene. Ely has entered a national contest to win \$10,000 to kick-start the market.

"I know I am not the first person to have this idea," she says. "I'm just trying to increase the potential for making it happen. I was in New Mexico in November, and while

WILDISH GRINCH AWARD

Wildish Sand and Gravel will be presented the 2007 "Grinch of the Year Award" this week for the company's "attempts to take good union benefits away from local workers and for attempted union-busting," according to the Eugene-Springfield Solidarity Network/Jobs with Justice (ESSN).

ESSN members, local elected officials, and community members plan to present the award to the Wildishes at 2:30 pm Thursday, Jan. 10 at the Wildish offices at 3600 Wildish Lane, off Coburg Road in Eugene.

Wildish truck drivers, plant operators and mechanics are represented by Teamsters Local 206. The collective bargaining agreement between the union and Wildish expired April 1, 2007.

"Earlier generations of the Wildish family worked hard to earn a good name and

have been rightly honored in our community," reads a statement from the union. "But the third generation now running the companies is engaged in a serious attack on Teamster employees! Steve and Mike Wildish have hired a notorious union buster from Portland (Jim Frazer) to lead the recent negotiations."

The union says Wildish management has not budged from proposals to cut back on existing health insurance, pension benefits and security provisions. "Management continues to insist on taking away employees' good union health insurance and pension benefits and substituting inferior company plans," says Teamsters representative Stefan Ostrach. "Employees, whose average age is 47, would lose the opportunity to retire early."

Teamsters have voted to authorize a strike and a federal mediator is involved in negotiations. As *EW* goes to press, Mike Wildish and Steve Wildish of the Wildish management team have declined a request for comment.

I was there I went to Santa Fe. They are in the process of creating an indoor farmers market there and we could easily do something similar."

Ely submitted an idea to www.ideablob.com and is one of the finalists in voting that ends Jan. 14. A link to her proposal can be found on the website's home page, and visitors can vote after free registration.

"My thought is if I can win the \$10,000, then we can start to bring the stakeholders together and get moving on this project," she says. "I am willing to work to make it happen with fundraising, etc."

Ely was profiled as a "Happening Person" in *EW* Aug. 3, 2006. She figures she has raised about \$150,000 as a "professional" volunteer fundraiser over the past 12 years.

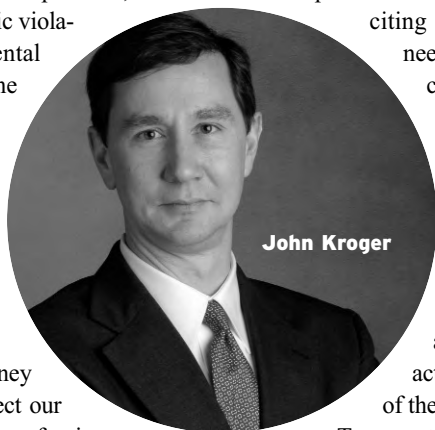
"Now's the time to make this happen," she says, "especially with the focus on local food systems coming to the forefront in everyone's minds."

SIERRA CLUB FOR KROGER

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed John Kroger for attorney general.

Oregon has a green reputation, but suffers from chronic violations of environmental laws, according to the Sierra Club. The environmental group noted a recent *Business Week* report that ranked Portland as the third most contaminated city in the nation.

"We need an attorney general who will protect our land, air and water by enforcing the laws we already have," said the Oregon Sierra Club's Bill Parker. "John Kroger will do that, and that's why we're endorsing him



John Kroger

to be Oregon's next attorney general."

Kroger's Democratic primary opponent state Rep. Greg Macpherson has the endorsement of Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Kroger was endorsed by former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

— Alan Pittman

RALLY AGAINST DRIVER ID

CAUSA, Oregon's Immigrant's Rights Coalition is asking supporters to appear at a Friday hearing in Salem on an executive order that makes it impossible for undocumented immigrants to get drivers licenses.

New Oregon drivers license rules are scheduled to go into effect Feb. 4 as a result of an executive order by Gov. Ted Kulongoski. The order requires people to prove they're in the U.S. legally before they can get a driver's license. This eliminates documents commonly available to immigrants such as the Matricula card and foreign birth certificates, according to the CAUSA website.

Oregon Latino leaders asked the Department of Motor Vehicles to delay implementation of the order on Dec. 31, citing safety concerns and the need to inform the immigrant community about the order, but Kulongoski rejected the delay.

CAUSA is organizing a rally at noon on Friday, Jan. 11, at the Oregon State Capitol, 900 Court St NE, Salem, according to the group's action alert. The joint hearing of the Senate and House Interim Transportation Committees discussing the issue will be at 1 pm in Hearing Room A. For more information go to www.causaoregon.org

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL

JIM DUPRE

"Other than being a hard-core voter, this is my first political involvement," says Eugene native Jim Dupre, indicating the sign in his yard, across Royal from Fairfield School, that displays the "Bush Death Count," updated daily from the web. "My mission is to let people know how many are being killed." Dupre's first sign, made of cardboard, lasted two weeks last summer before it was trashed by vandals. The second, made of fiberboard, withstood abuse for four months. The current sign, a full sheet of three-quarter-inch plywood, is securely anchored and protected by motion-sensor lights. A graduate of North Eugene High, Dupre served with the Army in Germany, then studied at the UO on the GI Bill. His 19-year-old son Josh is in the Air Force. A drummer since junior high, Dupre toured with several bands in the 1980s. He currently plays in the West Side Blues Band every Thursday at the Overtime Tavern. Now semi-retired and afflicted with a mild form of Parkinson's, Dupre has time to devote to his antiwar mission. "I print up fliers almost every night," he says. "I pass them out door-to-door."



• **Wildish Sand and Gravel** is seeking to excavate up to a million cubic yards of sand and gravel over five years from a gravel bar the company supposedly owns about a mile downstream from Armitage Park on the McKenzie River, a popular section for boating and fishing. In earlier times, gravel mining would happen even in flowing rivers, causing havoc for migrating and spawning fish for miles downstream. Today we know better, and we recognize the importance of sand and gravel to healthy rivers and protecting endangered species. This 11-acre site is at times under water, and therefore part of the river ecosystem – and perhaps not even technically owned by Wildish.

Let's look very carefully at the renewal of this old mining permit. The Wildish plan is already getting the attention of Oregon's Department of State Lands, the McKenzie Watershed Council, the Army Corp of Engineers, various conservationists and at least one fly-fishing group. The public also has an opportunity to weigh in. Locally, Michele Hanson of the Army Corp is taking comments until Jan. 18 at 465-6878 or michele.e.hanson@usace.army.mil

• Mike Eyster talked about a **"renaissance" in UO student housing** at the Eugene City Club last week, but he deftly dodged a couple of the toughest questions following his prepared talk. What about parking for all those student wheels? Where will new residence halls be built under the plan to replace two-thirds and remove one-third of the present dorms? Are you considering building on the west side of the campus, plugging into the city's effort to boost downtown housing? Is UO housing "unfair competition" to local developers? The UO currently houses about 22 percent of the student body; the new plan will boost that to 25 percent. Four times more students than could be accommodated applied to live in the new living-learning residence hall in 2007. Students will pay \$7,849 per year for the standard double room and standard meal plan.

• Watching the debates in Iowa and New Hampshire is leading some of us political junkies to scream at our TVs. Blogging can be therapeutic. Our own Suzi Steffen has been on vacation in Iowa and writing about her experiences as a caucus observer. See blogs.eugeneweekly.com/blog/3 for eyewitness views.

And if some of the candidates' statements don't seem quite right, a good website to check out is www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter. This site, produced by the *St. Petersburg Times* and *Congressional Quarterly*, is an attempt to determine the truth in presidential candidates' statements at the podium. Statements are judged as true, mostly true, half true, false, barely true, etc.; and some statements get the "Pants on Fire" treatment, such as Romney saying his advertising doesn't accuse McCain of supporting amnesty for undocumented aliens. "Perhaps Romney should watch his own ads or read his own press releases," say the website editors.

• How is Eugene doing in **avoiding urban sprawl**? Not so well if we compare the physical size of our city to our population. The Home Builders Association in Lane County (in cahoots with the Chamber of Commerce) is constantly lobbying city officials to expand our urban growth boundaries. "We need more land," is the constant refrain. The truth is Oregon's cities are among the least compact cities in the world. Eugene has 1,263 people per square kilometer, according to figures compiled by the Goal One Coalition. Portland has 1,503, Seattle 2,563. Boston 4,697. Even sprawling Las Vegas has 1,775, and Los Angeles has 3,078. San Francisco packs 6,349 people into each kilometer, New York City 10,173. The most dense city? Mumbai (formerly Bombay) teems with 29,650 people per sq. km., yet includes a national park within its city limits.

Few of us would want to live in a tiny apartment in a 50-story building, but Eugene (and Springfield) can certainly accommodate more population growth within our existing boundaries. And if it's done right, our quality of life can actually improve with density: less driving, more walking, more convenience, more affordable housing, greener construction and renovation, rooftop gardens, nicer and safer parks, less blight, stronger neighborhoods, profitable local businesses, thriving nonprofits, better schools. A compact city can be alive with enterprise music, art, food, recreation, romance and conversation.

• Over and over we hear global warming skeptics complaining that **Al Gore is a hypocrite** and has no credibility because he flies to conferences, contributing to global warming. Following this logic, we should ignore any author who writes about sustainable forest practices because printing that author's book or article destroys trees. Looking at our so-called carbon footprint is just one small way of examining our personal impact on our world.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In *EW*'s Winter BRAVO issue last week, the long-lived Very Little Theatre did not receive the attention it deserved. Please see this week's Arts Shorts (p. 24) for a preview of the VLT's winter and spring seasons.

EARLY DEADLINES

The *EW* offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For our Jan. 24 issue, the early deadline to reserve display advertising space will be 5 pm Thursday, Jan. 17. For more information call 484-0519.

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commentary BY SHANE D. KAVANAUGH

Curious Caucus

Iowa's peculiar contribution to democracy

It was Sunday. I had just rented a black 2008 Pontiac G6 and needed enough gas money to get me from Chicago's western suburbs to Des Moines, Iowa, and back again. I cashed my Oregon kicker somewhere off of IL 38 near St. Charles, Ill. Visiting my family for the holidays in Illinois had been swell, but now I was champing at the bit to get on the ground in Iowa. After all, there were only five days until the Hawkeye State held our nation's first presidential caucus, and John Edwards was going to need all the help he could get.

The good folks at the Edwards campaign had plenty of work to be done. They kept me and a few hundred other volunteers hunkered down and busy, turning the nuts and bolts of a massive and carefully orchestrated field operation. I drove to Council Bluffs to drop off campaign literature, as well as a woman from the Bay Area who was sent out there to canvass, phone bank and sleep on a stranger's floor. I knocked on doors during cold spells that sometimes dipped below zero in Marshalltown, Newton and Urbandale, with union workers, an attorney, a family of four and a retired schoolteacher — from Austin, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Northwest Indiana, respectively. I made countless phone calls from a local Steelworkers' union hall in a nearly forgotten corner of East Des Moines.

Despite the hard work of many people on the campaign, I observed that much of the goings on could easily bear a resemblance to a three-ring circus. There were the not-so-rare sightings of *Time* magazine's Joe Klein or *Meet The Press'* Tim Russert pattering up and down Locust Avenue. Ubiquitous news vans and third-string reporters hounded those voters and campaign volunteers who smacked of "human interest," their microphones dangling in front of these folks like a little kid's ice cream cone. Actress Madeleine Stowe knocked on doors, John Mellencamp threw free concerts, and even Edwards' own mother and father called through lists of undecided voters with the rest of us.

On New Year's Eve, I was on my way to the Des Moines International Airport to pick up some volunteers when a young woman driving in a minivan and talking on her cell phone ran a red light and struck my car at an intersection. Nobody was hurt; the Pontiac, however, was totaled. I mention all of this only because after the police report had been filed, the wreckage towed off in different directions, I managed to persuade (or was it guilt trip?) the young girl's parents — who had come to take their hysterical daughter home — to caucus for Edwards.

And speaking of accidents, at some point I had the misfortune of crashing a Hillary Clinton party at Trophy's Bar and Grill off the Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. There, three sheets to the wind, was none other than former DNC Chair Terry McAuliffe singing karaoke along to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing." I couldn't help but think that while all of this was going on, 10 men and one woman were

running for president of the U.S., campaigning furiously throughout a state with nearly 800,000 fewer people than Oregon. That thought alone could sometimes make my head spin.

But there was a redeeming moment to all of this, and it came on the eve of Jan. 3. About 225 Iowa Democrats showed up at the Ankeny 1 precinct caucus in the Media Room at Ankeny High School to hold their curious caucus. I watched the whole thing along with a small handful of other ob-



They crowded into tightly packed corners, chided one another and debated. They ate Snickers bars and homemade cookies. They cracked jokes and laughed.

servers. Publicly, a community of friends, family, and neighbors decided on whom they wanted to represent them as their next president. They crowded into tightly packed corners, chided one another and debated. They ate Snickers bars and homemade cookies. They cracked jokes and laughed.

Like many other places throughout the state, Sen. Barack Obama dominated. The young voters and first time caucus-goers showed up for him. It was truly impressive, maybe even a little inspiring. In the end, Obama got three delegates, Edwards got two and Clinton and Biden each got one. A few diehard Richardson supporters had gone home, bummed that their candidate failed to garner 15 percent of the original vote. For all of the hoopla, the hundreds of days the candidates spent in Iowa, the incessant pandering and grandstanding, the thousands of volunteers knocking on doors and making calls, and the tens of millions of dollars dropped on advertising, we got a little piece of democracy in that room that evening. I went back to where I was staying that evening wondering if it was worth it.

EW

Shane Dixon Kavanaugh is a Democratic political strategist who volunteered on John Edwards' presidential campaign in Iowa. He grew up in Eugene and now lives and works in New York City. See EW staff member Suzi Steffen's live blog from the caucuses at blogs.eugeneweekly.com/blog/3

Forest Stewardship

Is the BLM's WOPR just a distraction?

The Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR) has been the using up a lot of the time and effort of environmentalists from Eugene and around Oregon. Some local forest activists think it's a distraction from a more nefarious plan — logging under the guise of forest stewardship.

The WOPR's preferred alternative (Alternative 2) proposes a 700 percent increase in logging in Oregon's old-growth forests. The public comment period on the plan ends Jan. 11, and many environmentalists believe the plan will end up going into litigation.

Tim Hermach, executive director of the Native Forest Council (NFC), says the WOPR is a "totally bogus plan" and the BLM is using "military tactics, designed not to win but to re-focus." With all the focus on the WOPR, he says, environmentalists are not paying attention to stewardship contracting.

"Stewardship end result contracting" was created under the Clinton administration, says Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics Executive Director Andy Stahl. It's a plan in which land managers barter trees for "good works in the woods" — improvements to the land or watershed. For example, a contractor would thin trees from forestland and in exchange would maintain trails on that land or get rid of trails to restore water quality.

While Stahl agrees that there are problems with stewardship projects, he says, "There is no possible way that the WOPR is a scheme to

distract from stewardship contracting."

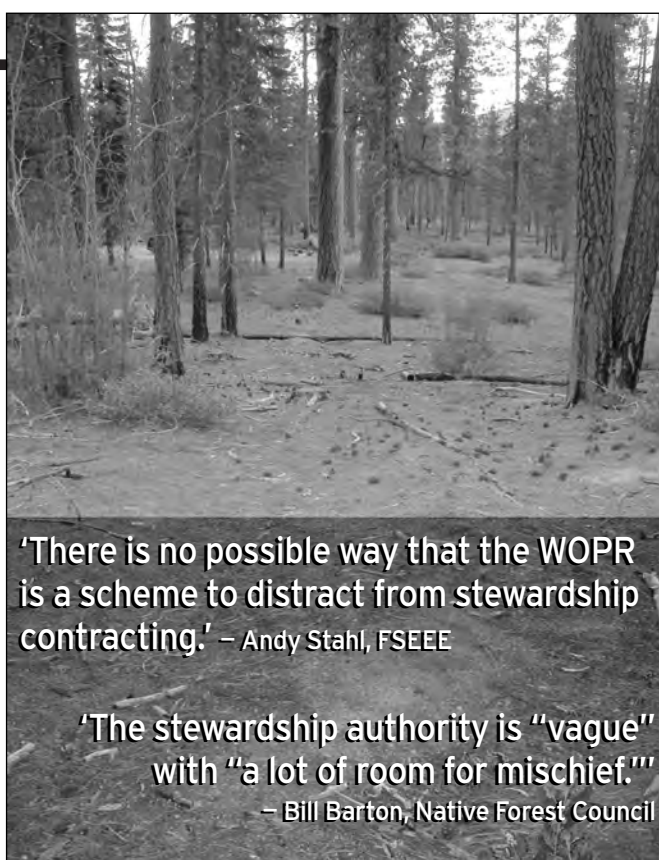
Stewardship contracting was originally limited to Forest Service lands, but in 2003, it was expanded under the Bush administration to the BLM as well. The stewardship authority was expanded until 2013 and contracts can last as long as 10 years, says Bill Barton, director of field operations for the NFC.

There is no limit to the amount of land under a stewardship contract, says Barton. He cites the 3.3 million acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest of Montana, which has been proposed as a stewardship area by a coalition of forest industry and green groups. This gives them "complete control of a national forest," he says. If the WOPR goes through, BLM lands in Oregon could still become stewardship lands, he says, "and not one cent to the counties if stewardship goes through."

Unlike timber sale money on O&C lands, which gives 50 percent of gross timber revenues to O&C counties, any money earned under stewardship contracting goes back into the project or other stewardship projects.

Another of Barton's criticisms of stewardship contracting is that the stewardship authority is "vague," with "a lot of room for mischief."

Barton also says that there is "no accurate measure of the amount of wood taken from a forest under stewardship contracting," and "they don't scale the trees as they come out." If



'There is no possible way that the WOPR is a scheme to distract from stewardship contracting.' — Andy Stahl, FSEEE

'The stewardship authority is "vague" with "a lot of room for mischief."' — Bill Barton, Native Forest Council

trovery about stewardship arises.

"Commercial thinning has the environmental community split," says Stahl. He divides the split into "jobs in the woods" people who see "social merit in having a logging industry and having communities like Sweet Home remain on the map" versus "zero cut" who don't want to see any logging at all. "Compounding the split," he says, "are Wyden and DeFazio who have declared themselves 'Thinning R Us.'"

Sen. Wyden made a call back in December to increase thinning on public lands, and Rep. DeFazio told the *News-Review* in Roseburg in December that he was trying to "garner support" for "an alternative approach based on

thinning" and is working on legislation to get O&C counties 75 percent, rather than 50 percent of timber receipts.

Once the BLM has assessed public comments on the WOPR, it will release a "Proposed Resource Management Plan" and a final Environmental Impact Statement in September 2008. This will be followed by a 30-day "protest period."

Bill Barton and Tim Hermach will be speaking at the Eugene City Club at 11:50 am Friday, Jan. 11, in a talk entitled "Logging and Taxes: How Are We Affected?" **EW**

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Portland's popular streetcars have spurred billions in downtown redevelopment



A Streetcar Named Eugene?

Trolleys would put LTD back on track By Alan Pittman

The Lane Transit District (LTD) has spent \$25 million on a bus rapid transit system called EmX with plans to spend about \$100 million more in the next several years.

But many question whether bus rapid transit (BRT) is on track. To reinvigorate downtown and promote sustainable transportation, they desire a streetcar system like the ones Portland and a growing number of other cities enjoy.

LTD officials have long argued that streetcars are too expensive and Eugene is too small for them. "LTD is not enamored with rail," the bus agency's board Chairman Gerry Gaydos told the Eugene City Council at a recent meeting.

But light rail supporters hotly dispute that BRT is cheaper than light rail. They also argue that Eugene isn't too small for streetcars and that light rail has many benefits beyond BRT, like spurring urban redevelopment and ridership with more fun.

Cheaper

LTD board member Greg Evans argued that light rail costs \$30 million to \$50 million per mile compared to the \$6 million per mile LTD has spent on BRT. "I think BRT makes the most sense," he told councilors.

But such BRT vs. light rail cost comparisons are widely disputed. The Texas-based Light Rail Now advocacy group argues that when BRT's higher operating costs and lower capacity are compared, "light rail actually gives amazing bang for the buck."

To prove its point, Light Rail Now examined the total 10-year cost of bus vs.

to save on right-of-way costs. Such streetcars can cost about five times less than full light rail systems with dedicated lines.

Some more elaborate BRT systems exceed light rail costs, according to Light Rail Now. BRT lines in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles cost \$50 million a mile compared to light rail lines in three other cities that averaged \$23 million per mile, according to the group.

Councilor Bonny Bettman disputed LTD's claims that BRT was cheaper. "There's never been an overarching, across-the-board cost benefit analysis," she said.

Portland boasts that it attracted \$2.3 billion in sustainable urban redevelopment to the Pearl District with its \$52 million streetcar line.

rail service in St. Louis, Mo. The group found far higher initial capital costs for light rail but far lower ongoing operations and maintenance costs. Overall, light rail was 16 percent cheaper per passenger mile than buses. The group attributed the difference to the need for fewer drivers for larger capacity trains and the trains' far longer lifespan and lower maintenance and fuel costs.

Trolley advocates also point out that light rail can be flexible to save money. Portland, for example, runs its trains on tracks embedded in streets where necessary

"None of that has ever been looked at."

Bettman points out that LTD is proposing an expensive redesign of Franklin Boulevard to add two dedicated BRT lanes rather than the current one lane or no lane along the route. Bettman said the project, including boulevard amenities, could cost \$30 million a mile.

Big Enough?

But light rail opponents argue that Eugene just isn't big enough for streetcars.



The Texas-based Light Rail Now advocacy group argues that when BRT's higher operating costs and lower capacity are compared, "light rail actually gives amazing bang for the buck."

"Our city is just at this point too small," said Councilor Alan Zelenka. In 30 to 50 years, he said, Eugene may be big enough to replace the BRT right-of-way acquired now with a light rail line.

Bettman points out that Eugene had an extensive electric trolley system from 1907 to 1928 when the city was much smaller. "Eugene had a very viable streetcar system when there were only 10,000 people here."

The system included a line to Springfield, a Fairmount Loop, a line out Blair Boulevard, and a College Hill loop running from the train station down Willamette Street to 29th Avenue and then looping back through the Friendly neighborhood and West 11th Avenue (see map).

Councilor Betty Taylor said a similar downtown streetcar route on Willamette Street "would be a great idea."

While it's true new light rail systems have mostly been built in larger cities, there are also smaller examples. Kenosha, Wisc., with a population of slightly under a hundred thousand, opened a line in 2000. Little Rock, Ark., population 184,000, opened a line in 2004. The Eugene/ Springfield metropolitan area has a population of about 300,000.

Light rail advocates point out that although critics frequently argue the transit system should not be built in smaller cities, the same argument is rarely made when it comes to far more expensive freeway systems.

Redevelopment

While costs are similar or less, advocates say streetcars have many important

advantages that BRT can't match.

The most important of these is redevelopment into more livable cities. Portland boasts that it attracted \$2.3 billion in sustainable urban redevelopment to the Pearl District with its \$52 million streetcar line. Dozens of other cities have followed Portland's example in recent years. Tampa officials say their \$55 million streetcar investment downtown sparked \$1 billion in private redevelopment.

Instead of focusing on spending tens of millions of dollars on parking garages like the failed urban renewal scheme in the November election, Bettman said the city could spur redevelopment downtown with a popular streetcar. "It's the quintessential downtown strategy."

UO planning and architecture Professor Jerry Diethelm said that with its fixed rails, streetcars offer a certainty to developers that the line won't move. BRT lines are more easily relocated, he said. "It doesn't have the same impact."

Indeed, while streetcar lines in other cities have sparked intense redevelopment even before they open, there's little evidence of redevelopment caused by LTD's EmX line.

Shelley Poticha, president of Reconnecting America, a national nonprofit advocating transit oriented development, testified to Congress last year in support of light rail. She said rail transit has become an increasingly popular tool for cities to use to create environmentally friendly and livable downtown redevelopment. Poticha, the daughter of local architect Otto Poticha, said the redevelopment value of streetcars

LTD says BRT has increased ridership 60 percent over the bus line it replaced

has helped spark a rail transit "boom" across the nation with 700 new stations now under development for a total of 4,000 nationwide.

Kenosha used its streetcar to attract a flood of condo redevelopment. The city's transportation director Len Brandrup recently gave *USA Today* a simple explanation of why the city opted for streetcars. "Developers don't write checks for buses," he said.

Fun Factor

One of the biggest advantages streetcars have over BRT is fun.

With smoother, faster rides in more spacious, comfortable, quiet and attractive cars with less exhaust and more nostalgia, rail attracts more riders than bus systems, according to a recent study by the Victoria Transport Policy Institute (VTPI). Because many more of these riders are discretionary car users, rail can have twice the impact of reducing driving as bus systems, according to VTPI. The transportation researchers found that cities with rail systems had a 400 percent higher transit ridership compared to cities with just buses.

Shelley Poticha notes that many cities use rail's cool factor as "a key amenity in attracting the highly desirable 'creative class' to local economies."

With more ridership comes the many benefits that transit offers including reduced global warming, lower road and garage costs, less obesity, less smog, less congestion, more affordable housing and increased livability, VTPI and Poticha point out.

Portland officials recognized the overall greater benefits of light rail three decades ago when they listened to public sentiment. They dropped a proposal by planners for an east side busway and chose instead to build



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the city's first light rail line.

But LTD General Manager Mark Pangborn said even if LTD wanted light rail, it couldn't get the needed federal grant money from the Bush administration. "We were told flat out by the federal transit agency" that the region was too small for rail, he said. "They said you're not even in the ball game."

The Bush administration publicly clashed last month with Portland over funding a new streetcar line. *The Oregonian* reported that top Bush officials are rejecting light rail, arguing that BRT is more cost efficient.

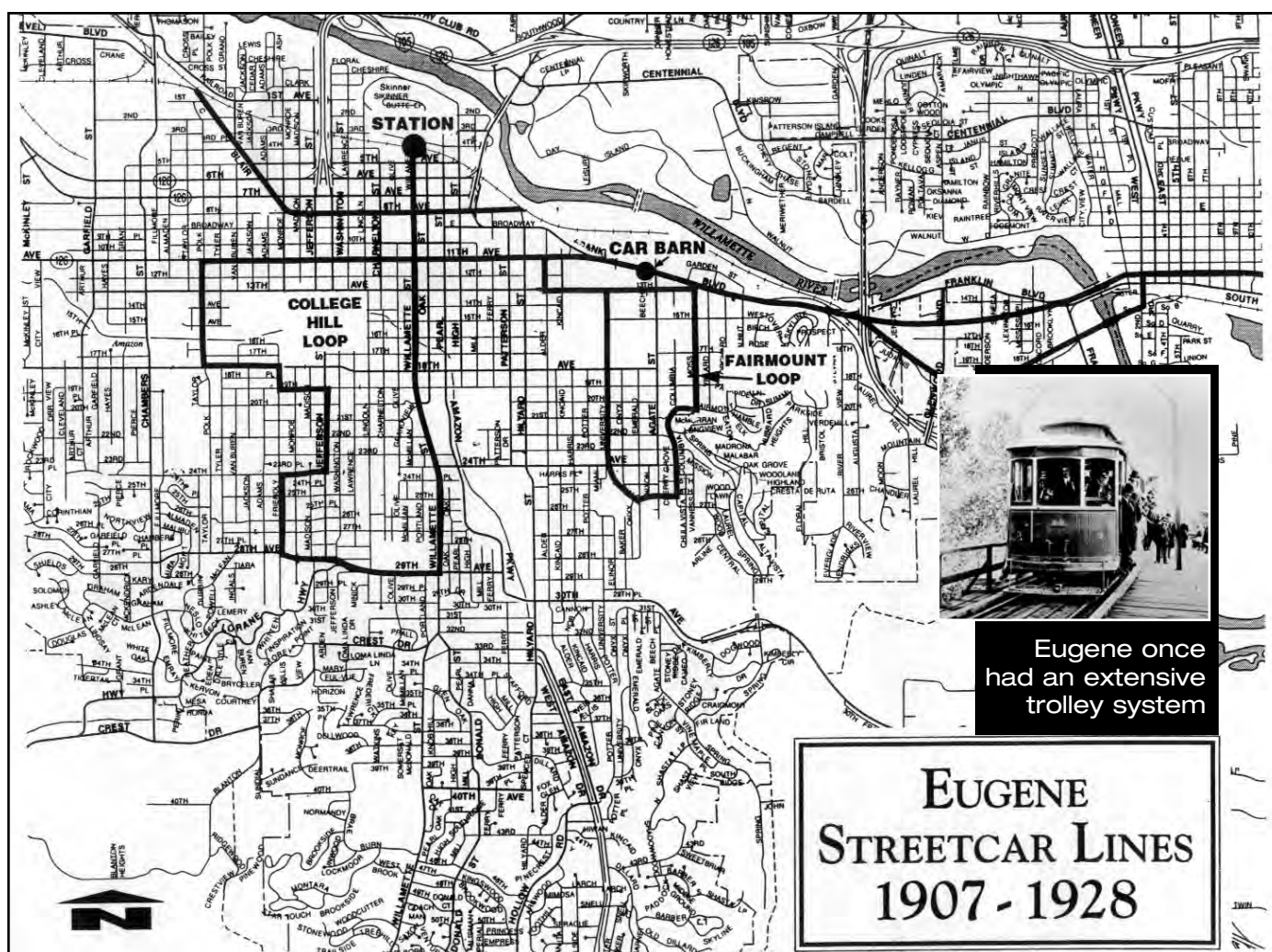
But siding against trolleys with a lame duck president who's intensely unpopular locally may be the wrong place for LTD to be. Local Congressman Peter DeFazio, who chairs a key House transportation committee, blasted the Bush administration's opposition to light rail as "totally misanthropic," and light rail advocates predict the federal BRT bias will end after November.

Bettman said Eugene shouldn't wait for LTD to come around on streetcars. "The city should do it instead of LTD," she said, citing the example of how the city of Portland, not TriMet, built its successful streetcar system.

Diethelm agrees that the city should establish its own streetcar authority. "I don't think LTD should do it," he said. "They don't want to do it."

"Right now LTD is sucking up every available dollar," Bettman said of the available federal funding. "We need to take back some of that authority to receive transit money."

EW



Eugene once had an extensive trolley system

Shelley Poticha notes that many cities use rail's cool factor as "a key amenity in attracting the highly desirable 'creative class' to local economies."

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WHAT'S

happening



Southwest Oregon filmmakers get their due at the 4th annual **OpenLens Festival** at DIVA (where else?) this weekend. The festival kicks off with the Friday premiere of **Monster Camp** (pictured left), a documentary on role players who take one weekend a month to live in an alternate reality. The film's coproducer, Aaron Douglas, will be on hand throughout the festival as the filmmaker-in-residence, offering workshops on pre- and post-production. Henry Goldman, of Current TV, offers a lecture on Saturday and discussion of broadcast opportunities on the new cable channel founded by Al Gore. Later in the day, the **Youth Visions Celebration** will screen short films produced by local teens. Then the OpenLens fest opens in earnest on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. This is a competition, people, so it's your turn to be a critic and vote. See Calendar.



It's a hot week for everything to do with art, architecture, new media and culture, both locally and on the worldwide stage. First, let's start with the opening reception of **DIVA's "Architects as Artists"** exhibit, a stunning array of creative works by architects, on Thursday, Jan. 10. Be sure to attend the associated panel discussion on architecture and re-visioning downtown development with world-renowned architect Robert Oshatz (his Fennel House pictured above), Don Genasci of the UO's Architecture program, Brad Maslin of Beam Development and Mayor Kitty Piercy. City planner Nan Laurence facilitates this vital merger of civic and artistic viewpoints. Afterward, mingle with the artists in DIVA's exhibit halls and try to picture something radically forward-thinking for Eugene's downtown. That same night, **Christy Matson**, professor of fiber art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, speaks at the UO's Lawrence Hall. Also, some mouthwatering exhibits open this week at Maude Kerns Art Gallery, White Lotus Gallery, Jacobs Gallery and OSU's Fairbanks Gallery. See Art in the Galleries listings and Thursday, Jan. 10 Calendar.

MIT professor **Henry Jenkins** has a blog. It's called HenryJenkins.com and it's where you can find Jenkins' writings, links and various thoughts on media and culture. It's his thoughts manifest, in a sense. The site differs from Jenkins himself in only that it lacks his physical presence. Where these two technologies (the biological and the digital) meet is what interests Jenkins, who will be lecturing on **"Art and Storytelling in the Age of Media Convergence"** at UO's Lillis Hall this week. While it may be fitting that you stay home and wait for his lecture to appear on YouTube, then proceed to dissect it like a tumor found in a goat's brain, it may be a small token of gratitude that you show up in the flesh. After all, Jenkins did come all the way out here to see you. Why not return the gesture – *and then* go rip apart his lecture in the blogosphere? See Wednesday Calendar.





Jason Webley and The Rev. Peyton bring their brand of Wine Rock to WOW Hall Sunday

10 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:47am; Sunset 4:54pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening for "Architects as Artists" exhibit, w/panel discussion on architecture & downtown development, feat. Mayor Kitty Piercy, Brad Maslin (Beam Development), Robert Orshatz (architect) & Don Genasci (UO Architecture), 5:30pm, DIVA. FREE.

Artists' Insight gallery talk for the "Reliquary: The Everyday Sacred" exhibit of painting & mixed media, 3:30pm, Jacobs Gallery. FREE.

Christy Matson, fiber artist from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, speaks, 7pm, 177 Lawrence, UO. FREE.

DANCE *Riverdance*, 7:30pm today; 8pm tomorrow and Jan. 12; 2pm tomorrow, Hult Center. SOLD OUT.

GATHERINGS "Beans at the Barn," learn about Petersen Barn programs & enjoy a chili & cornbread lunch, noon-2pm, Petersen Barn Community Center. 682-5521. \$1.

Public meeting of Citizen Planning Commission for the Whilamut Natural Area of Alton Baker Park, 6pm, Sloat Room, Atrium Bldg., 99 W. 10th. FREE.

WAND mtg. w/program: "New Year, New Opportunity, New Strategy," 7pm, Womenspace, 1577 Pearl. 338-8605. FREE.

Hearing Loss Association of Lane County meeting, topic: "Emergency Preparedness," 7pm, Hilyard Community Center. FREE.

Preview of "Your Experiment in Better Living: Live Radically for Four Weeks" workshop sessions, 7pm, Coaching Center, 4750 Village Plaza Loop, Suite 101. Register, 915-9981. Don.

LITERARY ARTS Mid-Valley Willamette Writers speakers series: "The Art of Being Invisible: A Case Study in Ghostwriting & Collaboration," presentation by Sally-Jo Bowman, 6:30pm, Baker Bldg., 975 High St. \$10, \$5 stu., FREE members.

MUSIC Members of Oregon Mozart Players present "Viva la France!" 12:15pm, Hult Center lobby. FREE.

Lauren Mulderrig, 9pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

Poisonous Birds, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses laws affecting renters and rental property owners, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"New Dimensions" discusses "Authentic Social Change" w/Marisa Handler, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

THEATER *Memory House*, preview performance, 8pm, Lord Leebrick Theater, 540 Charnelton. 465-1506. \$10, \$7 reduced.

11 FRIDAY

Sunrise 7:46am; Sunset 4:55pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening reception for the "Reliquary: The Everyday Sacred" exhibit of painting & mixed media by Clair Flint, Sarah Grew and Ken Herrin, 5:30pm, Jacobs Gallery. FREE.

An opening for "Plein-aire Painters of Eugene-Springfield," group show, 5:30pm, Emerald Art Center, Spfd. FREE.

An opening for "The Illustrated Word," exhibit of letterpress broadsides, 6pm, Maude Kerns Art Center. \$3 sug. don.

An opening for "About Face: Masks and Mirrors" by Annie Hubbard, w/performance by What Lola Wants, a women's theater troupe, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Park St. Café. FREE.

DANCE *Riverdance* continues. See Thursday, Jan. 10.

FILM Swedish Film Series: *Freud Leaving Home* by Susanne Bier, 7pm, 177 Lawrence, UO. FREE.

Monster Camp, documentary on role-players in fantasy games, 7pm, DIVA. \$5, \$3 stu.

FOOD/DRINK Wine tasting, 5pm-7pm, The Broadway. FREE.

GATHERINGS "The Time is Now! Diversity Inclusion" seminar, 10am-1pm, Birth to Three offices, 85 Centennial Lp. Register, mbautista@orpti.org or 888-505-2673. FREE.

City Club Friday Forum: "Logging & Taxes: How Are We Affected?" w/Tim Hermach & Bill Barton of the Native Forest Council, 11:50am, Downtown Athletic Club. www.cityclubofeugene.org \$3.

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene's Women's Alliance potluck & meeting, noon, 477 E. 40th. 686-2775. FREE.

Reception for Arturo Escobar, the Wayne Morse Chair of Law & Politics, noon, Knight Library. FREE.

Green Drinks progressives social, 5pm, World Café. FREE.

Interweave chapter of UUCE potluck & movie: *In & Out*, 6pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 477 E. 40th. 968-9200. FREE.

Introductory class on "Mind Beyond Death: Living our Dying, Part II," 7pm, KSC Meditation Center, Rm. 302, 747 Willamette. ksc@mind.net or 683-3180. FREE.

LECTURE "Cells, Organisms, Gaia: A Scientific Story of Life," Alder Fuller, 6:30pm today & Jan. 15, Euglena Academy. www.euglena-academy.net or 726-1217. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Live Lit West: UO Creative Writing students read their works, 8pm, Tsunami Books. FREE.

MUSIC The Conjugal Visitors, Bad Mitten Orchestre, Luminessah, The Blair St. Mugwumps, 7pm, World Café. FREE.

Sword 7, Nik Fury, BreakDown Dance Company, 7:30pm, EastSide Faith Center, 89 Centennial Lp. FREE.

Eagle Park Slim's 66th Birthday Party Show, w/special guests, 9pm, World Flavors, 1044 Willamette. FREE.

The Section Quartet, Leo London, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door.

The Ben Rice Blues Band, Roots Revival, 9pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

Tempo No Tempo, Swim Swam Swum, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses regional airports, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

SOCIAL DANCES Salsa dance w/Herman & Barb, 9pm, Tango Center, 194 W. Broadway. \$5.

SPIRITUAL Interfaith Prayer & Reflection Service, theme: "Sacred Stories," 7pm, First Christian Church, 1166 Oak. FREE.

THEATER *Dead Man Walking*, 3:30pm today and Jan. 18; 8pm tomorrow and Jan. 19; 2pm Jan. 13, Marist High School. trust@marisths.org or 686-2234. \$10, \$5 stu.

The Curse of the Hopeless Diamond, murder mystery dinner, 7pm today & tomorrow, Springfield High School. RSVP, 517-9028. \$10.

Memory House, gala opening, 8pm, Lord Leebrick Theater, 540 Charnelton. 465-1506. \$25.

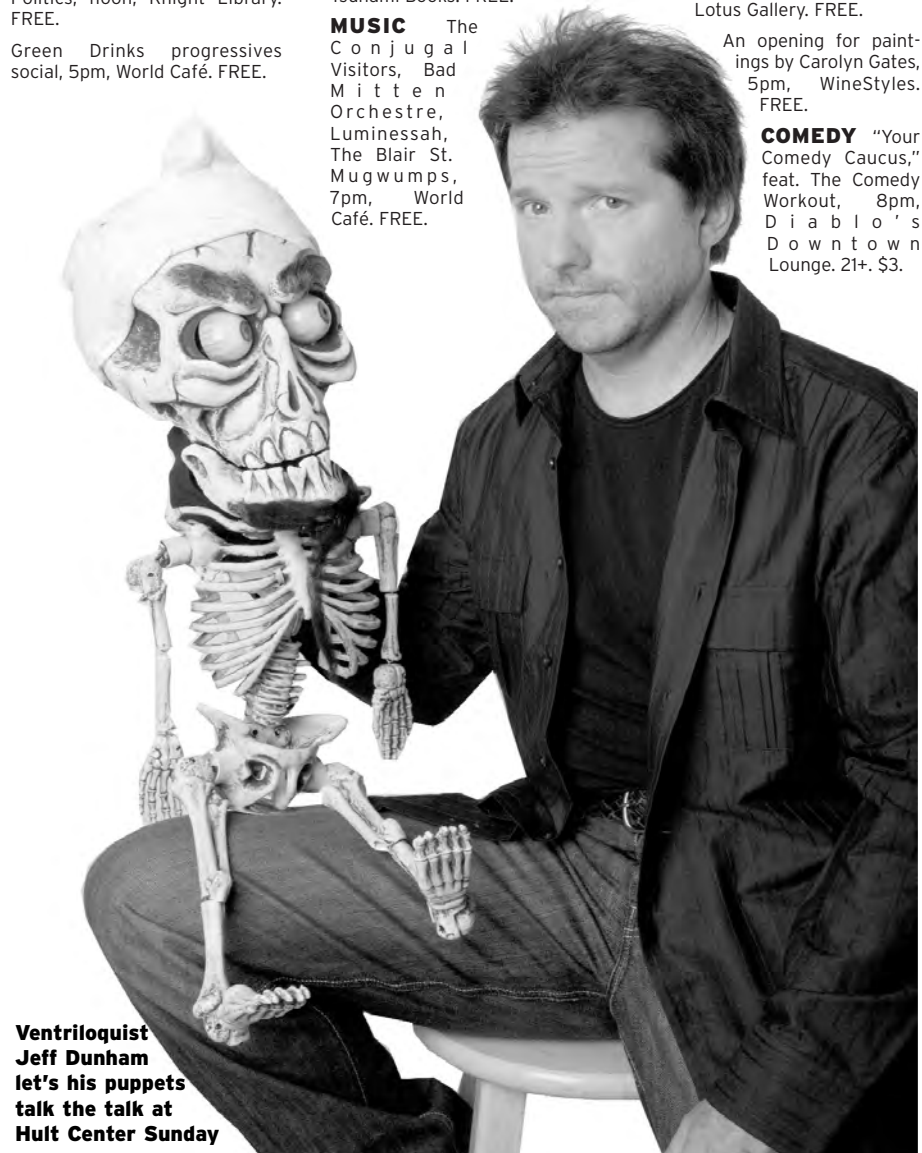
12 SATURDAY

Sunrise 7:46am; Sunset 4:56pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL An opening reception and gallery talk for the "Upper Tsagaan Gol: Discovering a Lost World in the Altay Mountains of Mongolia" photography exhibit by Gary Tepfer, 2pm-5:30pm, White Lotus Gallery. FREE.

An opening for paintings by Carolyn Gates, 5pm, WineStyles. FREE.

COMEDY "Your Comedy Caucus," feat. The Comedy Workout, 8pm, Diablo's Downtown Lounge. 21+. \$3.



Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham let's his puppets talk the talk at Hult Center Sunday

calendar

FILM *Scared Sacred*, 6:30pm, Temple Beth Israel, 42 W. 25th Ave. 343-2109. FREE.

Youth Visions high school video competition showcase, 3pm, DIVA. FREE.

OpenLens Film Festival of Regional Short Films, 7pm today and 1pm tomorrow, DIVA. \$5, \$3 stu., member.

GATHERINGS Collectors West Gun & Knife Show, 9am-5pm today & tomorrow, Lane County Fairgrounds. \$6.

Genealogy @ Your Fingertips clinic, 10am, Downtown Library. Register, 682-5450. FREE.

AAUW's monthly community forum & meeting, w/Barbara Carter speaking on "Equity in the Workplace: Are We There Yet?" 10:30am, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 777 Coburg Rd. 344-4134. FREE.

Orientation for new & returning students, 2pm-4:30pm, Euglena Academy. RSVP, www.euglena-academy.net FREE.

Grand opening & hold 'em tourney, 7pm, Astoria Bar & Poker Room, 2406 W. 11th. 465-2277. \$25 buy-in.

KIDS/FAMILIES Family music & storytime: "Shake Sugaree!" noon, Springfield Library. FREE.

WREN's Cattail Investigation family program, 10am, Wetland Project Office, 751 S. Danebo. Register, 683-6494. \$4, \$2 members.

LECTURES Henry Goldman discusses Current TV and how viewer-created documentaries fit with Al Gore's vision, 1pm, DIVA. FREE.

"Unique Flora of Western Australia," Dave & Jan Dobak, 1pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1465 High St. FREE.

Suman Barkhas & Anita Tanner present a slideshow & discussion of Mongolia from Eastern and Western perspectives, 1pm, River Road Community Center. 688-4052. FREE.

MUSIC Eagle Park Slim, 11am-2pm, World Café. FREE.

Rose Whitmore presents "A Year in Germany: Playing Bach on North German Organs," 1pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard. FREE.

Emerald Valley Opry, 6:30pm, Willamette High School. \$5, \$4 sr., \$2 under age 16, FREE under age 7.

Lafa Taylor, Runaway Slave, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door.

Frankie Hernandez, T-Club, 9:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$5.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Swim-A-Thon, 7:30am-1pm, River Road Pool, 1400 Lake Dr. 461-7777.

Obsidians trips: Family Snow Play, sled; North Bend Spit, hike, 4 miles. See YMCA board for details/sign-up sheet.

GEARs rides: Cottage Grove via Lorane, 60 miles; Gimpl Hill via Pine Grove, 35 miles, 9:30am, meet at Alton Baker Park. www.eugenegears.org

SOCIAL DANCES Contra dance, w/music by Wild Hair, 8pm, Cesar Chavez School Gym, 1510 W. 14th. Potluck at 6pm. \$7, \$6 stu.

Jose Cruz salsa dance, 9pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$5.

THEATER *Memory House*, 8pm today, Jan. 17-19, 24-26 & 31 and Feb. 1-2; 2pm Jan. 20 & 27, Lord Leebrick Theater, 540 Charnelton. 465-1506. \$10-\$18.

The Curse of the Hopeless Diamond murder mystery dinner continues. See Friday.

Dead Man Walking continues. See Friday.

VOLUNTEER Be a Stewardship Volunteer and plant



Poets Vern Rutsala and Sara Burant read at the Downtown Library's Windfall Reading Series Tuesday

native trees & shrubs along wetlands, tools/training/snacks supplied, 9am-12:30pm, meet at Long Tom Watershed Council Office to carpool to site. RSVP, jgarmon@longtom.org or 683-6949.

Hendricks Park community stewardship forest work party: Remove invasive ivy & non-native vegetation, 9:30am-1pm, F.M. Wilkins Shelter, Hendricks Park. Tools/snacks provided.

General orientation for volunteers & foster care, 10am, Greenhill Humane Society, 88530 Green Hill Rd.

KIDS/FAMILIES Family Art Sunday: "Middle East Art & Culture," 2pm-4pm, Emerald Art Center, Spfd. 726-8595. FREE.

MUSIC Rose Whitmore presents an all-Bach organ recital, 5pm, Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard. FREE.

Acoustic Blues & Jug Band Jam, w/workshop, hosted by Walker T Ryan, 5pm, Tsunami Books. 543-1835. \$5 sug. don.

Greg Oldson, Forgotten Works, 7:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$3-\$5.

Sofia, JT and the Clouds, 8:30pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$6-\$10.

Jason Webley & The Rev. Peyton's Big Damn Band, Conjugal Visitors, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door.

OUTDOORS/RECREATION Cascadia Wildlands Projects hosts an educational old-growth forest hike to the Alsea Falls area, 9:30am, meet at parking lot behind Kinkos, 13th & Willamette. RSVP, 434-1463.

Plant ID Basics walk, 10am, Mount Pisgah Arboretum. RSVP, 747-1504. \$5.

Obsidians trip: Gold Lake-Survival!, x-ski, 4 miles; Sand Mountain, x-ski, 9.5 miles. See YMCA board for details/sign-up sheet.

GEARs rides: Marcola, 48 miles; Wendling Covered Bridge, 63 miles, 9:30am, meet at Alton Baker Park. www.eugenegears.org

13 SUNDAY
Sunrise 7:46am; Sunset 4:58pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

COMEDY Jeff Dunham, ventriloquist, 7pm, Hult Center. 682-5000 or www.hultcenter.com

FILM *Peace is Possible: It Needs to be Felt*, video showing of Maharaji, 6pm, EWEB. FREE.

OpenLens Film Festival continues. See Saturday.

GATHERINGS Intro to Goddess Bellydancing w/LadyB, 2pm, The Spirit Moves. 485-8787. FREE.

UUCE's Men's Group potluck, 6pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 477 E. 40th. 689-1620. FREE.

Meeting on "How to stop Nike & UO, eminent domain and incompatible expansion," 7:30pm, Starbucks, 13th & Alder. FREE.

Collectors West Gun & Knife Show continues. See Saturday.

WINTER FOLK FESTIVAL FLORENCE EVENTS CENTER January 19 & 20, 2008

FOLK MUSIC, CRAFTS, FOOD, DEMOS & FUN
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Saturday, January 19 • 10am to 7pm, Adm \$7, \$2 for Kids (12 & under)

Sunday, January 20 • 10am-3pm, Adm \$5, \$2 for kids

HEADLINE CONCERTS: additional ticket fee

Tom Chapin & Friends, Sat. 7pm ★ The Limelighters, Sun. 3pm

TICKET INFO: Florence Events Center at 888-968-4086 or www.winterfolkfestival.org

UNDERWRITTEN BY: Bi-Mart, Art & Ann Rule, Hearing Associates, KCST 106.9FM & 1250AM, Terrace Homes/Art & Jean Koning, Weiner Consulting Services, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce, Lane County Tourism Special Projects Grant, Siuslaw News, Trillium Community Health Plans

LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org



Free Public Talk by James Cloutier

Sunday, January 13, 2008

2:00pm at Lane County Fairgrounds Special Event Center, Room 2

(541) 682-4242 for info



2008 Slavic Festival

Enjoy Life Enjoy Culture

January 17
Musical Play: The Joyless Princess
7PM • Agate Hall, University of Oregon

January 18
Slavic Wonderland: Star Filled Russian Nights
7pm • Hult Center for the performing Arts

January 19 & 20
Slavic Festival
9AM • 11PM • Regional Sports Center, Springfield

January 24
Voronezh Devchata
7PM • Agate Hall, University of Oregon

January 26
Russian Restaurant
6:30PM • Lane Community College



EVERY SHOW IS DIFFERENT

TICKETS: Star filled Russian Nights at hultcenter.org 682-5000. All other events at slavichome.org 579-3900 or at the door

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Hult Center for the Performing Arts

Friday Feb 15 8pm

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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT HULT CENTER OR UNIVERSITY OF OREGON BOX OFFICE, WWW.HULTCENTER.ORG, CHARGE BY PHONE 541-682-5000

calendar

PWRFL Power plys Czmc Pzza Tuesday

SOCIAL DANCE Ballroom dance, 5pm-9:30pm, Vet's Club Ballroom, 1626 Willamette. \$7, \$4 stu.

THEATER *Dead Man Walking* continues. See Friday.

14 MONDAY
Sunrise 7:45am; Sunset 4:59pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

GATHERINGS Presentation on how not to be a victim of theft, 1:30pm, Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen. 682-5521. FREE.

Group session on advanced directives for seniors, 2:30pm, Campbell Center. Register, 682-5318. FREE.

LECTURE "Why we are past the tipping point for climate change," Alder Fuller, 6:30pm today and Jan. 18 & 22, Euglena Academy. www.euglena-academy.net or 726-1217. FREE.

MUSIC Sound-Bytes: Robert Ponto & Brian McWhorter play Karlheinz Stockhausen, 11:54am, Collier House, UO. FREE.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses book publishing, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

15 TUESDAY
Sunrise 7:45am; Sunset 5pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

FILM Eckhart Tolle's *The Power of Not Knowing*, w/discussion, 7pm, SGC, 390 Vernal St. 995-3799. FREE.

GATHERINGS Learn about the "Blood Type Diet," 10am, Campbell Center. Register, 682-5318. \$5.

"Map & Compass" clinic, 7pm, REI. Register, 465-1800. \$15, FREE members.

Community Conversations panel on "Faceoff: Unmasking Facebook Community Formation and Social Networking," 7:30pm, Living Learning Center Performance Hall, UO. 346-1977. FREE.

KIDS/FAMILIES Jammie storytime, 7pm, Springfield Library. FREE.

LECTURES Cities in War, Struggle and Peace lecture series: "Reconstruction of Tokyo: Designed, Chaotic, then Reborn," Hiroo Ichikawa, 7:30pm, 177 Lawrence, UO. FREE.

"The Adolescent Brain," Dr. Robert Sylwester, 8:30pm, Spencer Butte Middle School. FREE.

"Cells, Organisms, Gaia" lecture

continues. See Friday.

LITERARY ARTS Windfall Reading Series: Poets Vern Rutsala and Sara Burant, 7pm, Downtown Library. FREE.

MUSIC PWRFL Power, 9:30pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$3-\$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses lasers, space science & nanotech w/Peter Wu, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"Alternative Radio" presents Sut Jhally's lecture: "How TV Exploits its Audience," 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

16 WEDNESDAY
Sunrise 7:44am; Sunset 5:01pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL Corrine Loomis-Dietz lectures/demos on "Golden Acrylics: A to Z," 6pm-8pm, 166 Lawrence, UO. Register is required at the UO Bookstore. FREE.

FILM S.P.R.O.U.T.ed film series: *A Year in the Streets*, by Cascadia Media Collective, 8pm, The Lorax, 1648 Alder. FREE.

Heckler's Movie Night: *Bolero*, starring Bo Derek, 7pm, Wandering Goat. FREE.

Films of Cuba: *Strawberry and Chocolate* (1994), 7pm, 129

McKenzie, UO. FREE.

FOOD/DRINK Enjoy a tasty casserole, bread & dessert while an international student makes a presentation about his/her homeland, noon, Petersen Barn Community Center, 870 Berntzen. 682-5521. \$5.

GATHERINGS Rainy Day Blues Society's membership mtg., feat. Jesse Meade performing, 6:30pm, Mac's at the Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. FREE.

Orientation for new & returning students, 2pm-4:30pm, Euglena Academy. RSVP, www.euglena-academy.net FREE.

Informational meeting for the American Lung Association's Reach the Summit fundraiser, 7pm, REI, 306 Lawrence. FREE.

LECTURES "Confessions of a Queerspaw: Writing a Humorous Memoir on Serious Social Issues," Melissa Hart, noon, 330 Hendricks, UO. FREE.

"The Horror of Globalization," Mistuhiro Yoshimoto, 4pm, Knight Library. FREE.

"Global Warming and Human Rights," Svitlana Kravchenko, 4:30pm, Many Nations Longhouse, UO. FREE.

"Art and Storytelling in the Age of Media Convergence," Henry Jenkins, professor at MIT, 7:30pm, 182 Lillis, UO. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Classics book group: *Master and Commander* by Patrick O'Brian, 7pm, Barnes & Noble. FREE.

"Rrrrrraawwwrrrrrr!" Walking with Dinosaurs: The Live Experience begins its five-day engagement at PDX's Rose Garden Wednesday. See On the Road listings

calendar

MUSIC The Whiskey Spots, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$3-\$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses family relationship and river running, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

17 THURSDAY

Sunrise 7:44am; Sunset 5:03pm
Av High 46; Av Low 33

ARTS/VISUAL Rebecca Cummins, installations artist, speaks, 7pm, 177 Lawrence, UO. FREE.

FILM *The Queen*, 2:30pm, Campbell Center. FREE.

Ethnic Studies film series: *Dil Se...*(From the Heart), 6pm, 240A McKenzie, UO. FREE.

GATHERINGS Restless Leg support group, 2:30pm, Campbell Center. Register, 682-5318. FREE.

Intro to "Allying with Herbs for Health & Healing" class, w/LadyB, 7pm, Tsunami Books. 485-8787. FREE.

LECTURES Terri Williams, clinical nutritionist, discusses strategies to prevent the cold/flu, 1:30pm, Willamalene Center, Spfd. Register, 736-4444. FREE.

LITERARY ARTS Do It Yourself Book Club, learn how to start your own, 6pm, Sheldon Library. FREE.

MUSIC Eugene Youth Symphony, 12:15pm, Hult Center lobby. FREE.

Oregon String Trio, feat. David Riley, piano, 8pm, Beall Hall, UO. \$10, \$8 stu., sr.

Slavic Festival: *Joyless Princess*, musical play, 7pm, Agate Hall, 18th & Agate. www.slavichome.org \$15.

Eric John Kaiser, 7pm, Cozmic Pizza. \$4.

The Pack, Pittsburg Slim, Tyga, Three Blind Mics, 9pm, WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door.

Starboard Morning, Bad Mitten Orchestre, Ian Hilmers Stagefright, 9pm, Sam Bond's. 21+. \$3-\$5.

ON THE AIR "The Jefferson Exchange" discusses trends in the cosmetics & skin care product industry, 9am & 9pm, KRVM 1280 AM.

"New Dimensions" discusses "The Awakening World Mind and the Mayan Calendar" w/Barbara Hand Clow, 6:30pm, KLCC 89.7 FM.

THEATER *Memory House* continues. See Saturday.

CORVALLIS events

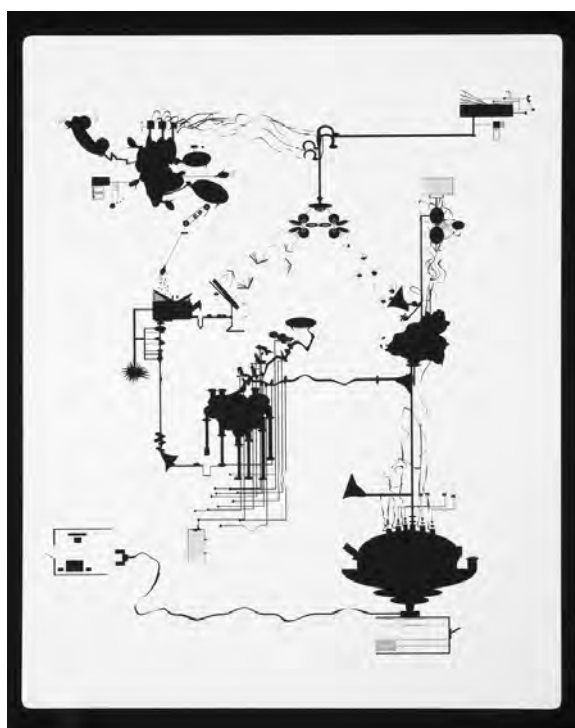
Note - Continuation dates for out-of-town events are listed under the first day of the event.

THURSDAY, JAN. 10 "Lessons of Leadership: Bold Bets and Back to Basics," lecture by Ursula M. Burns, president of Xerox Corporation, 6pm, LaSells Stewart Center, OSU. FREE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 11 Silver Dollar Horse Show, 8am today, tomorrow and Jan. 13, Linn County Fair & Expo Center. FREE.

Jessica Lambert, violin, w/Seong Nahm, piano, 7:30pm, First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 SW West Hills Rd. \$10, \$5 stu., child.

Dinner With Friends, 8pm today, tomorrow and Jan. 17-19; 2:30pm Jan. 13, Albany Civic Theater, 111 SW First Ave. www.albanycivic.org \$7-\$10.



Social Studies #14 by Emily Ginsburg opens Jan. 14 at OSU's Fairbanks Gallery. See Art in the Galleries listings

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, film & fun, 9pm & 11:30pm, Majestic Theater, 115 SW 2nd St. \$6.

SUNDAY, JAN. 13 Travel at the Tripp film series: "Hawaii Paradise," w/Denise Burkhart, 2pm, Russell Tripp Performance Center, LBCC. \$7, \$6 stu., sr.

Music of the Jefferson and Lewis & Clark era, 2pm, Lakeside Center, Menonite Village, Albany. 926-4680. FREE.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 16 OSU's College of Business open house, noon-2pm, Bexell Hall, OSU. FREE.

Vocal & piano master class w/Thomas Bagwell, 7pm, First Congregational Church, 4515 SW West Hills Rd. FREE.

THURSDAY, JAN. 17 Music a la Carte: Cello Bop, noon, MU, OSU. FREE.

ON THE road

FRIDAY, JAN. 11 Floater, Apex Theory, In Lunar Blue, 9pm, Crystal Ballroom, PDX. \$18.

Oregon Wine & Food Festival, 4pm-10pm today; 11am-9pm tomorrow; 11am-5pm Jan. 13, Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem. \$10, \$8 sr.

SATURDAY, JAN. 12 Floydian Slips, 8:30pm, Aladdin Theater, PDX. \$20.

An opening for three exhibits, 4:30pm, Florence Events Center. FREE.



Dammit Janet! Come to the Majestic Theater for The Rocky Horror Picture Show Friday. See Corvallis listings

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Circle Jerks
HIT ME BACK & LAST OF THE BELIEVERS
SUNDAY JAN 20
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SLIGHTLY STOOPN THE EXPENDABLES OUTLAW NATION
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16
MCDONALD THEATER
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thugs-n-harmony & DZO
SUN FEB 17 MCDONALD THEATER
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ALL AGES • FULL BAR WITH PROPER ID
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HENRY ROLLINS
SUNDAY MARCH 23 MCDONALD THEATER
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art in the galleries

All exhibits free unless otherwise noted.

OPENING

Adell-McMillan Gallery
"Yuyanapaq (For Remembering)," photography exhibit of political violence in Peru, through Feb. 2. 7am-11pm daily. EMU, UO.

Backstreet Gallery Work by 16 gallery member artists, through Jan. 31. 11am-5pm W-Su. 327 Laurel St., Florence.

DIVA "Architects as Artists" exhibit, through March 1. An opening is 5:30pm Thursday, Jan. 10. "Between the Shadow and the Soul: Mystical Nature Paintings & Photographs" by Tricia Clark-McDowell, through Jan. 26. Noon-5pm Tu-Sa. 110 W. Broadway.

Fairbanks Gallery "Habitual," prints & videos by Emily Ginsburg, through Feb. 6. 8am-5pm M-F. Fairbanks Hall, OSU.

through Feb. 9. An opening & gallery talk is 2pm Saturday. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 767 Willamette.

WineStyles Paintings by Carolyn Gates, through Feb. 29. An opening is 5pm Saturday. 11am-6pm M; 11am-8pm Tu-W; 11am-9pm Th-Sa. 2846 Willamette.

CONTINUING

Art of Glass Paintings by Charlie Meckel, through Jan. 24. 9am-5:30pm M-F; 9am-4pm Sa. 790 Blair.

Barnes & Noble Photography by Emerald Photographic Society members, through Jan. 31. 9am-10pm daily. 1163 Valley River Center.

Café Soriah Fiber paintings by Sandra McMorris Johnson, through Jan. 15. 11am-2pm M-F, 5pm-10pm Su-Th, 5pm-11pm F-Sa. 384 W 13th.

Florence Event Center Galleries "Heartfelt Portrayal of Nature," oil paintings by Keith Russett; paper sculptures & photography by Karen Nichols, through Jan. 31. Multi-style work by Morgan Johnson, through Feb. 28. An opening is 4:30pm Saturday. 9am-5pm M-F and by appointment and during events. 715 Quince St., Florence.

Imagine Wood furniture, jewelry boxes, game boards and pens by Urban Lumber, plus 20 other local artisans, through Jan. 31. 10am-7pm M-Sa; 10am-6pm Su. 296 E. 5th.

Island Park Art Gallery Prints by Susan Lowdermilk & Renee Manford, through Jan. 24. Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St., Spfd.

Karin Clarke Gallery Paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by Jan Zach, through Feb. 5. 10am-5:30pm Tu-Sa. 760 Willamette.

Lane County Historical Society & Museum "Snoopy as the World War I Flying Ace" exhibit, through Jan. 19. 10am-4pm Tu-Sa. 740 W. 13th. \$3, \$2 sr., \$.75 youth.

LaVerne Krause Gallery Adv. Drawing class group show, Jan. 14-18; Graphic Design & Media group show, Jan. 22-25; Art in China class show, Jan. 28-Feb. 1; Mixed media group show, Feb. 4-15; work by grad students in the arts & administration program, Feb. 18-22; Ceramics group show, Feb. 25-29; Mixed media group show, March 3-7; Photography student group show, March 10-14; "Habitat," mixed media group show, March 17-21. 10am-6pm M-Th; 10am-3pm F. 101 Lawrence, UO.

Museum of Modern Malabon Art Rotating student artwork exhibit, ongoing. 8:15am-2:15pm M-F. Malabon Elementary School, 1380 Taney.

Museum of Natural & Cultural History "Rock Art: Ancient Images, New Views," works on paper by Allen Cox, through March 2. "The Flood Zone: Landscapes Sculpted by the Glacial Lake Missoula Floods," photography by Bill Woolston, through March 23. 11am-5pm W-Su. 1680 E. 15th. \$3, \$2 youths, sr.

Museum of Unfine Art "Family Show," open exhibition of art about family, through Feb. 14. An opening is 6pm Friday. 11am-6pm M-Sa. 537 Willamette.

Opus6ix "Confronting the Canvas," paintings by Anne Teigen, through Jan. 13. 10am-6pm Tu-Th & Sa, 10am-8pm F, 11am-4pm Su. 22 W. 7th.

Public Service Bldg./County Courthouse Watercolors by Ann Simas and Natalie Olmos, through Jan. 28. 7am-6pm M-F. 125 E. 8th Ave.

Ratatouille Bistro-Café Photography by Annie Frantzeskos, through Jan. 21. 11am-2pm Tu-F; 5pm-9pm W-Sa; 10am-4pm Sa-Su. 1530 Willamette.

Tamarack Wellness Center Work by seven photographers, through Jan. 25. 9am-5:30pm M-F; 9:30am-noon Sa. 3575 Donald St.

Tevina Gallery Work by Joyce Findley, through Jan. 31. 2pm-5pm W; 3pm-5pm F, and by appt. 517-3237. 228 Main St., Spfd.

Wandering Goat Photography by Tim Giraudier, through Jan. 24. 7am-11pm M-F, 9am-11pm Sa, 9am-9pm Su. 268 Madison.

WOW Hall Work by Diana Kurzka, through Jan. 31. Noon-6pm M-F. WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th.

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January 24,	Thurs.	6 pm
January 29,	Tues.	8:45 am
February 8,	Fri.	10:30 am
February 11,	Mon.	12 noon
February 19,	Tues.	6 pm

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Feb. 1-3*, 7-9 *Sunday
Matinees

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Box office open 2:00-5:30

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Jacobs Gallery "Reliquary: The Everyday Sacred," paintings & mixed media by Claire Flint, Sarah Grew and Ken Herrin, through Feb. 16. An opening is 5:30pm Friday. Noon-4pm Tu-F; 11am-3pm Sa. Hult Center. 684-5635.

Magical Dreamtime Art quilts by MarDee, through Jan. 29. 10:30am-6pm M-Sa. 1041 Willamette.

Maude Kerns Art Center "The Illustrated Word," exhibit of letterpress broadsides, through Feb. 8. An opening is 6pm Friday. 10am-5pm M-F; noon-4pm Sa. 1910 E. 15th. \$3 sug. don.

Park St. Café "About Face: Masks and Mirrors" by Annie Hubbard, through Jan. 31. An opening is 6:30pm Friday. 9am-3pm M-F. 776 W. Park St.

White Lotus Gallery "The Upper Tsagaan Gol: Discovering a Lost World in the Altay Mountains of Mongolia," photography by Gery Tepfer,

Diablo's Downtown Lounge Work by Sister Margaret, through Jan. 29. 11am-2:30am M-F, 3pm-2:30am Sa-Su. 959 Pearl.

Emerald Art Center "Plein-air Painters of Eugene-Springfield," group show; paintings by Mark & Susan Dodge; "Origins, Mapping, and the Game of Life," by Carol Plaia; sculptures by Sally LaMarche, through Feb. 1. A reception is 5:30pm Friday. 11am-4pm Tu-Sa. 500 Main Street, Spfd.

Espresso PRN West Portrait photography by Claudia Kelley, through Feb. 10. PeaceHealth Medical Group annex, 1162 Willamette.

Espresso PRN East Pastel drawings by Mike Dudley, through Feb. 10. Sacred Heart Medical Center, 3rd floor, 1255 Hilyard St.

FireWorks Restaurant Pastels & oil paintings by Frances Stilwell, ongoing. 11:30pm-2:30pm & 5pm-9:30pm M-Sa; 10am-2:30pm Su. 1115 SE 3rd (Hwy 99W), Corvallis.

See Clare Carpenter's *Bulldog Betty* and other letterpress broadsides at Maude Kerns Art Center through Feb. 8

It was 1942 when
★ Johnny's father ★
took him to see

Bulldog Betty

of St. Johns ★ take on

Mad Millie

of Detroit.

Betty's poker face
revealed nothing but
a determination to
take the
**WOMEN'S
TITLE;**

but Johnny could read on his pop's face a
desire for more than the \$50 he had on

Betty pinning Millie in the

SECOND ROUND

eugene weekly's **Weddings** 2008





HEATHER NOLAN WITH HIS AND HER RINGS



RINGS BY MICHÉ MEIZNER-ONOCLEA



the ring becomes you

LOCAL RINGMAKERS OFFER CUSTOMIZED SERVICE

by Chuck Adams

You've made up your mind; you've found the one person in this world who will complete you; you're ready to take the plunge. So you get down on your knee, and your love looks back at you in puzzled intimations of hope and fear. You've thought this scenario through a thousand times in your head, consulted family, friends, psychologists, astrologists, your dog. They all send their blessing (well, OK, some grudgingly), but still you're stuck. Do you go with the ring in pocket number one, the chain store gold band with the 24-carat rock? Or do you go with pocket number two: a custom-made ring with your Trekkie partner's name engraved in Klingonese on the band, locally designed and fabricated using recycled platinum silver?

Your choice depends a lot on who you are.

Rings come in all shapes and sizes to fit your personality, but if you're picking one from a chain store jeweler, they usually come in thousands of duplicates. You wouldn't choose your partner from a catalog, the wisdom goes, so why would you choose your wedding ring from one? For those who take their rings as seriously as their relationships, and desire a customized experience, the goal is to find a ringmaker who will work with you to make something special.

But, first, here's a good rule of thumb: If you're working with local artists, make absolutely sure you're looking for something unique. "People look through these [catalogs]," says Eugene resident and jewelry artist Barney Beguhl, "and go 'I like this' and 'I like that,' and I go, 'Well, if you like that and that, we should buy that' because they can cast it or die-strike it and make a million of them. And they go, 'Well, I want *you* to make it.'" But, Beguhl points out, "It's like asking an artist, 'I want *you* to paint my car with spray cans because I like your work.' No, it's just a paint job." Working with a jeweler to customize your ring can be an intimate collaboration where you trust them to make your vision a reality, but jewelers aren't wizards. "People have an image in their mind," says Winston-based ringmaker Mark Jackson, a longtime vendor at Eugene's Saturday Market, "and how it translates into metal and the functionality of it from there is often two different things."

Other questions to ask yourself: How eco-conscious are you? Do you give a lick about strip-mining, water pollution, workers exposed to cyanide and arsenic? Do you stay away from diamonds served with a side dish of blood and oil? Well, local ringmakers will try to accommodate your conscience — some more than others.

Heather Nolan, who works from her Eugene studio and will meet clients over coffee to discuss details, encourages diamond alternatives (such as the synthesized-in-a-lab cubic zirconia) as opposed to real diamonds. But if a client is dead set on the real deal, Nolan says she can find a "clean diamond" sourced from Canada or elsewhere because she doesn't "really like working with blood diamonds." As for eco-conscious gold, Nolan says that "unless some-

LOCAL RINGMAKERS GUIDE

Barney Beguhl
(541) 285-4834
www.joyfulcrow.com

Mark Jackson
(541) 679-4895

Miché Meizner-Onoclea
(541) 896-9841
www.sumiche.com

Heather Nolan
(541) 844-1056
www.nolandesigns.com



body panned their own gold in Alaska" and brought it to her, "you really have to let go [of eco-consciousness] with the metal."

For the past five years, Miché Meizner-Onoclea of Sumiche Jewelry has been telling clients the opposite. "We're using both 100 percent recycled [metals] and sustainably-mined materials that we're importing from Colombia," says Meizner-Onoclea. What, exactly, is sustainable mining all about? "It's called artisanal mining," says Meizner-Onoclea. Operations are small scale and miners must replant foliage, not use toxic chemicals and reduce silt flowing into waterways, and ecosystems must not be destroyed "beyond a possibility of recovery," says the Corporación Oro Verde website, where Meizner-Onoclea sources her mined metals. The incentive for workers is that they earn 10 percent over the market value for their precious metals, thereby making them some of the better paid workers in the region. For Meizner-Onoclea, providing greener options to clients has been a major boon. "My business has nearly doubled in the several years since we started a sustainable, free-trade line of jewelry," she says, and she is now regularly booked two to three months out.


As for craft, local ringmakers either use the lost-wax casting method or, in Jackson's case, hand-fabricate from sheets and wires. If you're a no-frills type of person, perhaps a wedding ring with just a few simple engravings will do the trick. "I think the idea of carving into a solid band is a good symbol of marriage and the unending, unbroken ring," says Nolan. "It's a beautiful thing."



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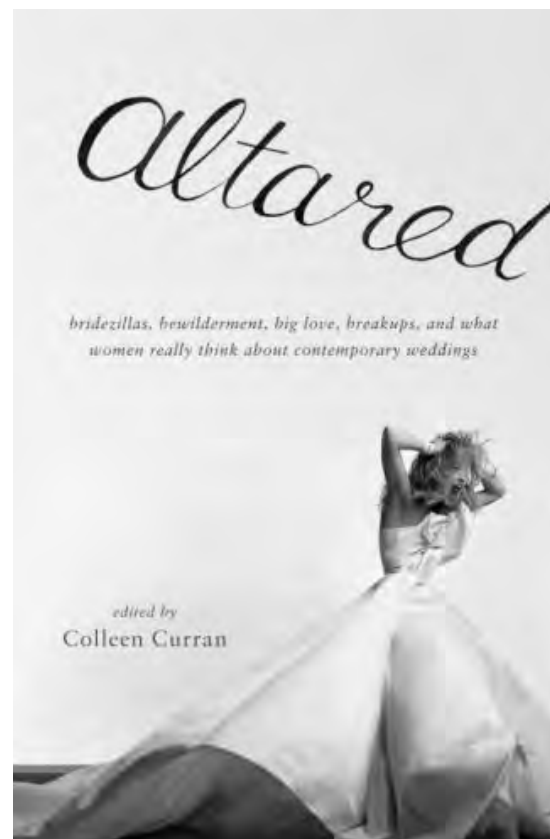
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bridal scream

ESSAYS ON TYING THE KNOT INTO KNOTS

by Molly Templeton

ALTARED: Bridezillas, Bewilderment, Big Love, Breakups, and What Women Really Think About Contemporary Weddings, edited by Colleen Curran. Vintage Books, 2007. Paperback, \$13.95.



It's a peculiar quirk of the *Eugene Weekly* Weddings issue that it often winds up being edited by someone who isn't married and has little interest in *getting* married. So to us happily unwed, frequently living in sin writers falls the task of thinking, far more than we usually do, about weddings. For me, thinking about weddings is usually limited to when someone asks if I'm planning to ever get married, or when I'm at a wedding and considering what I would lift from that particular celebration for my own, were I ever to have one (as well as a running tally of what I would under no circumstances, nuh-uh, no way, no how ever, *ever* do at my own wedding).

So it was a little unnerving to immerse myself in the stories of women dealing with weddings, as I did while reading *Altared*, a collection of very personal essays about all aspects of marriage. From first proposals to third or fourth weddings, rubber chicken to honeymoon sex, the writers in this collection spill their stories of caving or not caving to the massive wedding industry, to parents, to tradition, to their own ideals. Some of the essays are sentimental and sweet, others a little bitter, others caught in the middle somewhere between romantic and cynical. But most share a relative skepticism about the things women are "supposed" to want for their weddings. Jennifer Armstrong, a writer for *Entertainment Weekly*, writes about calling off her wedding after getting utterly swept up in the details of the planning, but in the end, she's thinking — carefully — about the wedding she still might have someday. Curtis Sittenfeld (*Prep*) discusses the vow she made — to attend every wedding to which she was invited — and how it affected her take on weddings and marriage. In one of the book's loveliest pieces, Samina Ali writes about her two weddings, one an arranged marriage, one, years later, a marriage for love (to a man she met in grad school in Oregon, no less).

Every story in *Altared* feels honest and immediate but also like the product of a considerable amount of thought; nothing, even if it's dry or bitter, is off-the-cuff when it comes to weddings. The majority of the contributors to the book have a degree of ambivalence about either wedding traditions and institutions or about their own wedding (or weddings; the beginning of Lisa Carver's piece is so funny and wry I won't spoil it by repeating it here). Even the most perfect, beautiful ceremony, like the lovely community celebration Anne Carle writes about in "Weddings Aren't Just for Straight People Anymore," probably has a little bit of tumult in its backstory.

Is that a comfort to a bride-to-be, knowing that everyone has something go wrong, or at least be not quite perfect? Given the breadth and depth of experience covered in *Altared*, I think there's something here for every bride, be it a moment to identify with, a scenario to chuckle sympathetically at, a clever idea to borrow or a story to bring tears to a reader's eyes (as Kathleen Hughes nearly did to mine). Like so much else, it depends on the bride. And the groom, of course, which brings me to a small complaint about *Altared*: When can we hear from the men? I appreciate the idea of a collection of wedding-related essays all written by women; we're the targets of most of the hype, and you rarely hear anyone ask a man what he dreams of for his big day. But I kept wondering what the men thought, and whether they found themselves caught up in things as they never expected to be. They're in the stories, of course; they're supportive or perplexed or encouraging or out of the country. But I'd like to see the companion volume of men's essays on getting hitched. Perhaps it'd be called *Groomed?*

queen for a day

SOMETHING BORROWED BRIDAL BOUTIQUE
RENTS GORGEOUS GOWNS *by Vanessa Salvia*

If you can't imagine spending \$2,000 or more on a dress you'll only wear once, the thought of buying a traditional head-to-toe wedding ensemble probably fills you with a special kind of horror. For years men have routinely rented their wedding attire, and now a new boutique in Eugene is letting women have their turn.

Carol Holm and Anita Sanders opened Something Borrowed Bridal Boutique in June of 2007. Their collection of more than 75 pristine bridal dresses, in styles ranging from simple sheaths to ornate beaded ball gowns, fills the spacious front room of Holm's Eugene home. While gown rental is common in other countries and even in other states, Oregon bridal shops avoid it. Judy Van Valkenberg, owner of Oregon Wedding Showcase, refused to admit Something Borrowed into her wedding show, citing her policy of exhibiting only new dresses. "She's not going to change her mind ... at least until she finds that more people are interested," says Holms. "It's quite an industry, but it's unfortunate because there's room for all of us," adds Sanders. It's accepted and even expected that men will rent their tuxes, but there's serious money at stake when bridal gowns cost thousands of dollars. Holly Serano, customer service representative for David's Bridal in Eugene, said they do receive calls about women seeking to rent, but she didn't seem concerned about the competition. "Some girls will always want to own their gown. They want the dress of their dreams," Serano says. "We're not too worried about it. There's always been competition."

Few brides knew about Something Borrowed when the pair first opened up shop, but after some word-of-mouth advertising, they're flocking to the service. About half of the brides-to-be who make appointments end up renting a gown. Holm and Sanders were previously in business together for 22 years making toys, and after selling that business in 2005 they began looking for other entrepreneurial opportunities. When their original idea of renting prom dresses proved impractical, Holm's daughter seeded them with their first wedding gown. "She wore it and was done with it," Holm says. Since then, Holm and Sanders have purchased dresses from Craigslist and accepted gowns given to them by friends. It seems fewer women are saving their wedding dresses these days. "This generation of young women doesn't want to hold onto their dresses. They just see them as



ANITA SANDERS AND CAROL HOLM

closet filler," Sanders says. "They know their daughters won't want to wear it any more than our daughters wanted ours. So we're buying all the dresses they bought, and we can use them again."

Until now, women bought expensive dresses at bridal stores because they had no options. Renting allows brides to acquire their entire wedding ensemble for about \$200, and that's appealing to a lot of brides who either can't afford thousands of dollars for a dress or choose not to spend that much. And buying a gown also usually involves an alteration fee of about \$200. "It's just ridiculous," Sanders says. "You could have a couch or a really nice trip somewhere instead." The dresses from Something Borrowed originally cost anywhere from \$700 to \$2,500 and rent for an off-season rate of \$120.

The women also offer rental veils, undergarments, shoes, shawls, bustiers, spans (control top girdles), stoles, a few tiaras, earrings and 20 petticoats in various sizes and degrees of poofiness. Holm and Sanders fuss over the brides as long as it takes at each appointment, zipping and buttoning and sorting through the voluminous dresses. If a dress is too long, they will offer the bride taller shoes and a bigger petticoat. Too short, and the brides get flatter shoes and a less full petticoat. "There are alterations we can make without sewing," Holm says.

"Our brides are thrilled to find this service, and then they're thrilled to come in and find gorgeous dresses," Sanders says. "They're not settling."

Something Borrowed Bridal Boutique is located at 1754 River Point Loop. 344-5557; www.somethingborrowedbridalgowns.com

TUX LOVE

Men don't dream their whole lives about the perfect tux for their fairy tale wedding day, and if most grooms ever had to wear an itchy, uncomfortable penguin suit ever again it would be too soon. It makes sense that an industry allowing men to rent and return their wedding attire exists. But there are a lot of stylish guys out there, and there's the idea that if you're going to spend the money renting a tux, why not buy a nice old vintage one for almost the same price? Problem is, at least around here, a vintage tux or even a quality vintage suit can be tough to come by. Local vintage stores do carry tuxes for sale, but according to Nobody's Baby manager Morgan Monroe, when a nice vintage tux comes in it flies out the door almost as soon as it hits the rack. "We have a close-knit small group of vintage collectors here, and we do have dealers who come from California," Monroe says, "but mostly it's guys calling looking for a suit for an occasion and they want vintage," usually for a wedding, a cocktail party or parents' wedding anniversary. Buying a quality vintage tux might set you back \$100 or more if you can find one, but Nobody's Baby keeps the Zoot suits and other prime vintage stuff for costume rentals. They don't rent wedding attire per se and they don't have wedding gowns, but rental tuxes can be had for \$50. — *Vanessa Salvia*

Nobody's Baby is located at 365 E. 13th Ave. 343-6842; www.nobodysbaby.com

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EXPLORING THE WILDER SIDE OF WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

Words by Adrienne van der Valk • Photographs by Ponso Photography



When I first got this assignment, my editor asked me to explore the phenomenon of “dress trashing”: wedding gown vandalism committed by brides who have completed their walks down the aisle but still feel an urge for self expression that wasn’t quenched by choosing china patterns or making their own bouquets. The unmarried, punk-rock side of me immediately became invested in the concept. It had everything; passion, irony and spitting in the face of convention all rolled into a great muddy (or paint-spattered or water-logged) ball of crinoline-lined, feminist performance art. The practical side of me wondered how I was going to pull off writing about this supposed matrimonial mania that was sweeping the nation when I had never heard of it; all the brides I knew had their gowns safely tucked away in mothballs and plastic sheeting. I decided to call a few photographers in town to ask if their lenses had ever captured such displays of post-union pandemonium.

The first photographer I called was a specialist in wedding photography. He said he had heard of the practice of dress trashing and referred me to www.trashthedress.com, a central hub in the online community of women worldwide who have been photographed getting down and dirty after their “I do”s. “It seems kind of like a class thing,” he reasoned. “If you have the money to get married, buy a dress, have a photographer at your wedding and then feel comfortable destroying something really expensive and paying someone else to photograph it ... well, you have to have a certain amount of money to be able to do that.”

My first conversation had given me food for thought, but the woman who answered the phone at the next studio I called provided a more emotional perspective.

“Well,” she gasped when I told her why I was calling. “I never heard of anyone doing that and I ... well, I just don’t know why anyone would want to! I mean, I can’t imagine it. If it was a successful marriage, I just don’t really see how anyone could do such a thing!”

So far I had gotten a lesson in socio-economic disparity and big ol’ dose of traditionalist backlash, but I felt I needed to understand more about the kind of women who would deliberately destroy a symbol of their commitment to their partners. Then I found James McCormick of Studio Coburg. McCormick belongs to a “trash the dress” forum online and tells me the term is widely credited to John Michael Cooper, a Las Vegas wedding photographer who apparently grew weary of idyllic garden shots and convinced a few clients to go slumming in their priceless frocks. But why would a bride acquiesce to such a request? Trashthedress.com answers,

Why? ... Why not? You’ve made a commitment to your husband. He’s your one and only true love, right? Then you’ll never need the dress again. And no, your daughter won’t wear it in 20-30 years. So you have two choices:

- 1) Suffocate it in plastic and throw it in a closet
- 2) Show your husband how committed you are by trashing the dress, and get some great fun pictures while you do it!

So, that all sounds fine (if a little hetero-centered; no evidence that anyone expects lesbian or gay dress-trashing arose in my internet research) but the pictures the site featured were all brides sitting in the crook of a tree or lying in a field or (gasp!) standing on some railroad tracks. Hardly the mud-slinging, Texas Chainsaw Massacre re-enactment images I was expecting. The coolest photos were of women who had jumped into water and were sinking as their dresses billowed around them. There is a very Ophelia-like vibe to those pictures and a sense that the material is truly being sacrificed, not just being snagged by bark. Still, the whole thing had a very “Aren’t we quirky and fun!” kind of feel. Not really the po-mo experimental art scene I was expecting. But McCormick’s tempered perspective provided me with a dose of pragmatic appreciation.

“We don’t go all out like some of these guys,” he said, acknowledging the grungier side of dress trashing. “We’re out to capture some images with some good impact that tell a story about how people feel about each other without worrying what the dress will look like at the end of the day.”

I decided to put strict journalistic practices aside and set out to see if I could get one of my friends to do an all-out “trash the dress” photo shoot, just to see what the experience was like, up close and personal. I broadcast an e-mail to about 60 local women (maybe half of whom are married) and got three responses. One said, “Sorry, I already torched mine!” One said she wanted to do it but discovered her dress no longer fit. A week went by and I was starting to feel desperate. Then my friend Jen responded. Her e-mail simply said, “I hate my wedding dress for so many reasons.”

Jen and I set up a photo shoot with our mutual friend and local photographer Angie Ponso. At her suggestion, we decided to shoot outdoors and picture Jen rolling down a hill. Then we’d go in search of some mud to really finish the job right. While we were arranging Jen and her dress for their last close-up together, she explained to us why she had decided to sacrifice her gown. It turns out that happily married Jen had received the material for her dress from her grandmother, a brilliant seamstress. Her grandmother died before she could make Jen’s wedding dress, and the seamstress she hired “pretty much screwed up everything about it.”

“Look at this thing, it’s a Karen Carpenter special!” she moaned. With her husband on board, Jen was ready to make a statement wearing a gown that had never really represented what she wanted to celebrate about her grandmother or her marriage.

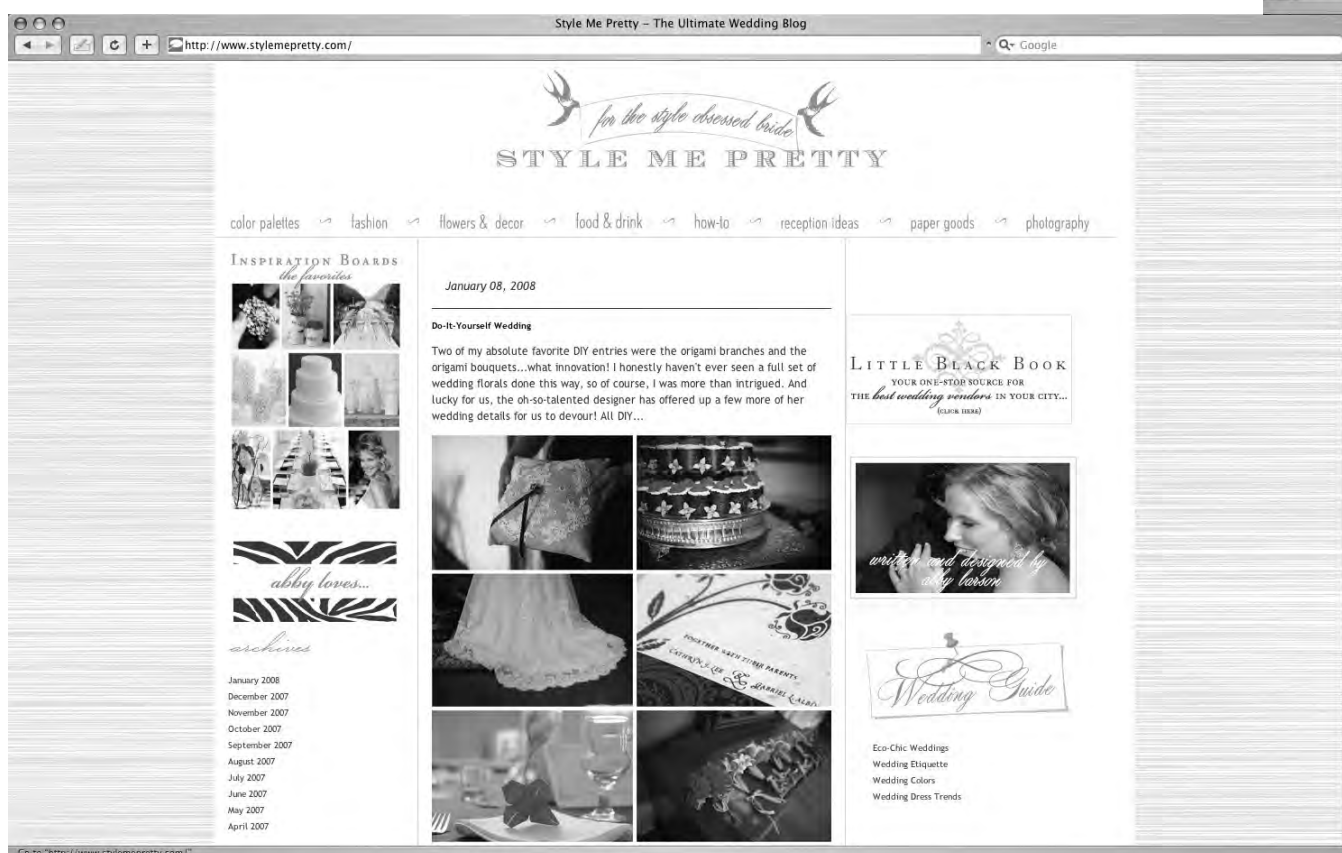
I was nervous the day of the shoot. What sounded like a good idea in theory was starting to feel like it could be awkward. What was I doing, chucking my friend down a hill and taking pictures of it? But once we got to the location, Jen took over. She rolled, she frolicked, she posed. “I’m so happy! I’m so in love!” she called out laughing to the world, mud spattering her cheeks and hair. It was hilarious. And cathartic. It took about half an hour. And then Jen and her dress parted ways forever.

Ultimately, the concept of “trashing the dress” manifests itself in as many different ways as there are different brides who decide to walk down the aisle. Some get their hems dirty, some douse their gowns in gasoline and light a match. Still, while these pictures have the potential to be art, they are profoundly personal. Projecting a critique of marriage or some kind of widespread undercurrent of rebellion onto this practice isn’t really accurate, as I discovered. But it is certainly valuable to juxtapose the beauty of deconstruction to the beauty of creation. And it never hurts to ponder cultural symbolism for a few weeks.



THE wedding web

Being a college senior doesn't just mean graduation on the horizon. It also means approaching the time in my early 20s when friends start announcing engagements, weddings and, in the coming years, the next generation of rugrats. Soon, friends will start trading in beer bong for champagne flutes — there's no stopping 'em. There's no shortage of wedding websites (and magazines, and books ...) full of advice and commentary, but it was my mission to sort through the online crap to find a few sites future brides, no matter their ages, might find useful — or at least entertaining. — *Anne Pick*



UGLY DRESS

www.uglydress.com

An archive of the world's worst bridesmaids' dresses. Definitely a visual guide on what not to make your best friends wear: brides take note! My personal favorite, the pregnant prom dress, might have you on the floor with laughter.

STYLE ME PRETTY

www.stylemepretty.com

Coined as being "for the style obsessed bride," this blog has useful links and ideas for the average girl, too. The site includes everything from food and fashion to photography and a how-to section. Check out the DIY contest for creative, awe-inspiring ideas you can bring to life yourself!

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Offbeat advice: Brides in glasses

January 8th, 2008

Any suggestions for how to "dress up" a bride with eyeglasses? I wear wire rimmed glasses that are a subtle cat-eye shape (can't be too crazy since I work in a hospital) and I can't wear contacts b/c of a medical condition. However, I find that glasses tend to "dress down" any fancy outfit I wear and I never see wedding photos where the bride has glasses. Any experience out there? -Kerith



Seems like there are two strategies you could use for wearing glasses at your wedding:

- 1. "My frames are a part of my face!"** (ie, stick with the glasses you've got)
If you love your frames and feel like they're really part of your face and identity, or are planning a low-key, mellow wedding, stick with the glasses you've got. If you're a make-uppy type, you could go for extra dramatic eye make-up under your usual specs to add some flair. Dude: when was the last time you tried quality fake eyelashes? Bridget Bardot in spectacles anyone?
- 2. "My frames are part of my wedding outfit!"** (ie, get new ones)
Wearing a pair of one-of-a-kind frames that aren't your usuals would make a great visual impact on your wedding — I say go for frames that coordinate with your dress. To be even more daring and dramatic, go for frames that coordinate with your flowers. Let your glasses be an extension of your bouquet: a visual splash! You could also go super light and understated — ie frameless lenses that barely show.

Keep reading »

Hey, I'm Ariel, author of the book *Offbeat Bride: Taffeta-Free Alternatives for Independent Brides*. This blog is just the tip of the offbeat iceberg — for the whole story you'll need the book, which is half memoir, half tipster handbook. Read an excerpt, and then get your copy.

Buy the book



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Want to have a geisha and pirate themed pagan wedding? This blog, written by Northwest lass Ariel Meadow Stallings (profiled in last year's Weddings issue) is an alternative for independent, offbeat brides. Offering up "Wedding Porn" (aka pictures and stories from other people's weddings), advice and vendor info, Offbeat Bride isn't just for the freaks. There's some rad stuff like one bride's photobooth "Save the Date" cards.

ECO-CHIC WEDDINGS www.ecochicweddings.com

Everything else these days seems to be turning green, so why not weddings? This is Eugene, after all. Eco-Chic Weddings can help you plan an eco-friendly wedding while still remaining chic and in style. The site includes links to common wedding stuff — fashion, invites, flowers and food — but also treats us to DIY, vintage and eco honeymoons links. Whoever thought green could look this good? Like the creator of Offbeat Bride, Emily Elizabeth Anderson of Eco-Chic Weddings has a book out with the same title as her blog.

eco-chic weddings
http://www.ecochicweddings.com/

eco-chic weddings

by emily anderson

emily anderson
author + designer

bad day got the best of me

I had a bad day yesterday. But like a little bit of sunlight, I came upon two new sites (new to me anyway). Follow me...
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OLD RITUALS MADE NEW *by Suzi Steffen*

So you want to get hitched somehow, but you don't want to go through the rigamarole that constitutes a wedding? You want something more than a quick trip to the justice of the peace but less than a 400-person ceremony in a religious institution with 16 attendants and a bawling flower girl?

Maybe you're the kind of straight person who's cool enough not to get married until your queer friends have the same rights. Maybe you're the kind of queer person who thinks it'd be mighty nice to cement the relationship in some ceremony that nets you the same household goods that weddings have provided for your het siblings. So what's to be done?

Well, if you're a big neopagan or in love with the heritage of the Celts, there's always the handfasting. Handfasting's about as romantic as it gets, what with the couple (or more, for those poly folks out there in committed two-couple or four-partner or etc. relationships) tying ribbons over their conjoined hands in a Celtic knot. Check out the elvish pair at www.handfasting.info for ideas and information — though *EW* recommends you not buy pointy ear extenders — and don't miss out on photos of handfasting capes. A handfasting can come in or at the end of a more traditional wedding, but

for neopagans, it often stands as its own ritual, when the bonding folks or their guests do the tying. Since it's not yet as commercialized as the bridal industry, the handfasting thing is under your control. Sure, pictures on the Internet may be replete with medieval/Renaissance joy, but say you're a leather pair: You pick the material, boyos and grrrrlz, and you decide what image you want to present to those attending your self-written ceremony.

Then there's jumping the broom. This option seems to have grown out of the ceremonies of African and African-American slaves in the U.S. South who weren't allowed to get married. When I say "weren't allowed," I mean that they were considered property like teacups, tables and cotton gins — and at any moment, a slaveowner could decide to sell his "property," and husbands and wives would be ripped apart, children from their parents, siblings from each other. So jumping the broom was one of the many forms of resistance open to the slaves. Neopagans also say that Welsh and English traditions included jumping the broom in a somewhat different form (and for different reasons). But the custom became more popular among African-American couples after the miniseries *Roots* aired in 1977, and it's so well-understood as the equivalent of marriage (just like the handfasting-influenced "tying the knot") that one can buy books like *Jumping the Broom: The African-American Wedding Planner*. Folksinger Catie Curtis, who lives in Boston and has now been able to get married to her partner thanks to Massachusetts' legalization of same-sex marriage, originally jumped the broom with her partner to formalize their relationship.

So sweep out the white dress and unity candle blahs with ceremonies of your own. And if you want to sign those papers giving straight people (and soon, if the religious wingnuts don't get their way, same-sex partners as well) some rights? Go ahead and do that quietly — if you can get your hands out of those knots.



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CONSERVATIVE SPOILERS

Domestic partnerships delayed by lawsuit

On Jan. 2, the plan was, same-sex partners could head on down to the county clerk's office, pay some money, sign some forms, get a few (in the state of Oregon, at least) of the thousands of automatic rights straight couples get when they get married – and then eat some pie. As usual, the killjoy religious right ruined that fun.

The timeline: The Oregon Legislature passed a domestic partnership law last spring, one that would not conflict with the anti-gay-marriage Measure 36, which passed in November of 2004. Some homophobic folks from Tennessee calling themselves "Restore America" gathered signatures for a referendum on this law and on a civil rights law which passed at the same time. The Oregon Elections Division determined that the group didn't have enough valid signatures for either referendum.

Then in December, another anti-gay group (this one from Arizona) filed a lawsuit (*Lemons v. Bradbury*), saying that those whose signatures had been disqualified had been denied a fundamental right. And Judge Michael Mosman issued a temporary restraining order, which means that the domestic partner law can't go into effect until Feb. 1 at the earliest (when there's another hearing). So same-sex couples can't get domestically partnered for a while. Basic Rights Oregon held vigils across the state on the original partnership celebration date, Jan. 2, and has planned a rally for Jan. 30 in Portland before the next hearing. For more info on supporting this baby step towards marriage equality, go to www.basicrights.org and start planning now to represent the Willamette Valley at the rally. – Suzi Steffen



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COSABELLA



Family Matters

Exhibit questions the familiar

Outside of Feinstein's Museum of Unfine Art it's snowing clusters of flurry flakes, which are falling and clinging to the streets like wet naps. In walks some dude, shaking his head to get the moisture off his stringy hair. "You still accepting family art?" the dude asks Sean Mediaclast, local DJ, artist, curator and proprietor of Feinstein's. "Sure," says Mediaclast. "You got it with you?"

"It's in my car," says the dude. "I'll go get it."

Within five minutes Mediaclast has hung the dude's work on the wall of his music and clothing shop, complete with a handwritten title card. "I could probably take on about 10 to 15 more reasonably sized works," says Mediaclast, in addition to the more than 30 works already nailed to the wall in herky-jerky fashion. Like the family unit, the show is a work in progress, an ongoing open exhibition of paintings, prints, sculpture, found art and collage culled from drop-off submissions such as the one I witnessed while reviewing the show.

Mediaclast says he was curious how the family theme would be interpreted or defined, if at all. Indeed, he says he wondered how someone who desired a family (or a "family" as subject matter) would go about creating one. The answer is straightforward and abstract, figurative and ephemeral.

Peter Herley's *Family on a Couch* falls into the latter category by piling an assortment of dolls, stuffed animals and action figures on a couch and snapping a "family portrait." The desolate stare of these children's toys give the portrait a melancholy touch, making the ephemeral stand-in for what we idealize as "family." Similarly *Dragon's Treasure* by Lisa Degraffenreid collects an iridescent blue-green dragon doll nuzzling its button-cute offspring. The figure is simultaneously nurturing and primal, a toy and an isolated sample.

In a work of simple beauty, David P. Miller's *Family Monument* is an assemblage of stone-carved figures (the family) in a window-frame box, standing under their flimsy shelter in a thunderstorm. A simple beauty, sure, but not a simple image: Blue spheres dot the outside of the box, suggesting a cosmic order, while pillowy-soft thunderclouds belie the benevolence of a climate tempered by gods. If Michelangelo's *Prisoners* are heavy metal, *Family Monument* is soft rock.

Some artists interpret family in other-



Clockwise from upper left: *American Gothic II* by Scott Boyes, *Good Afternoon* by Andy Helps and a detail from *Family Monument* by David P. Miller

worldly terms, like Scott Boyes' *American Gothic II*, which re-imagines the Grant Wood painting with empty vessel aliens standing obliquely against a spare green plain and a single red brick house. Boyes' digital "painting" further distances the image from human warmth, giving it an eerie dread.

Steve LaRiccias's *Same Sex Marriage* is a study in repression. LaRiccias fashions two Art Deco-era found objects (they look like pieces from a vacuum), both with three-inch tube openings. However, one of the tube holes is plugged up with cork. No matter how many times I look at this piece, its answer is both obvious and elusive. Is LaRiccias playing with the words "same sex" to connote boredom? Is this commentary on how some have the right to speak while others are censored? Yes, to both and all questions raised by the work, for it leads you into questions with no given answers.

Contrast that with Kathy Omlin's *Family Defined Metaphorically*, a mixed media collage, which seems to posit the question "Can family be defined outside of blood?" and comes up with a neat display but fails to really grapple with the question in the visual work itself.

Elsewhere in the show, Andy Helps' pointillist *Good Afternoon* is straightforward homage to the sort of idealistic family of the 1950s that came prepackaged with diamond necklaces, blonde curls, blue skies and a bouquet of flowers while Eric Syverson's *My Brother* shows Stephen Hawking set against a backdrop of interstellar space, as if to imply a higher order of family, those great artists and thinkers we are not related to by blood but which, nevertheless, we find true kinship with across ages and eons.

"The Family Show" is on display through Feb. 14.

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VLT's 2007
The Sisters Rosensweig



Not So Little Ambitions

The VLT's theater season thinks big

Don't put down your planning calendar yet! There's more affordable theater in the works, with tales of striving families, bickering families, wild holidays and wild grief coming up at Eugene's Very Little Theatre.

The VLT, a community organization with a dedicated board and a hardworking volunteer staff, continues its 79th (!) season with

Clifford Odets' *Awake and Sing!*

This 1935 classic should be as fresh and vital today as it was during the Great Depression, when Odets' working-class characters struggled through the daily grind of life as they searched for a way to find the American Dream. This was the play that cemented Odets' fame, and it has been revived on Broadway several times — most recently

in 2006, when its message of immigrants working their tushes off in the midst of economic collapse was all too clearly connected to what's happening 70 years after the play premiered.

Awake and Sing! connects ever so slightly to VLT's season opener from last October, *Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, through its awareness of social class and refusal of sentimentality (OK, *Jacques Brel* gives in at the end, but the rest of the songs have some bite). And, if you saw last season's *The Sisters Rosensweig*, you might think of the history of the Rosensweig sisters, what their parents went through in order to give their daughters hope and opportunities (including the opportunities to spit on tradition, of course, and reject their religious and cultural heritage). Even in the Odets play, it's clear that the central Berger family contains cracks and fissures as the children fight for dreams of their own — and economic necessities bear down on everyone. *Awake and Sing!* opens Jan. 18 and runs through Feb. 9.

With a much lighter tone, the VLT opens *On the Razzle*, Tom Stoppard's farce about shop clerks on illicit holiday, March 28 (it runs through April 19). *On the Razzle* might sound familiar to those who know Thornton Wilder's *Merchant of Yonkers* or The

Matchmaker because the source material for all three is a 19th century play by Austrian playwright Johann Nestroy. Stoppard's wit combined with comedic heavy lifting by the cast and a gloriously sparkling set made *On the Razzle* a delight at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival last season. I'm hoping the VLT can pull off the juggling necessary to make this play work without letting the actors harden into overly broad stereotypes (a real risk in community theater, one that director Chris Pinto should fight at every turn).

And just at the end of the rainy season when we long to remember the sun, the VLT opens *The Memory of Water*. It's not related to the weather, of course, but to families and love and tragedy and the pain of loss. VLT does a far better job than any other theater in the area of providing solid, interesting roles for women, and Shelagh Stephenson's "tragic-comedy" serves that purpose well this season with its challenging roles for three sisters mourning the loss of their mother and disagreeing about family history while trying to deal with the present. *Memory* opens May 30 and runs through June 21, just as the sun breaks through the clouds and we all breathe a sigh of relief. The final VLT play of the season, Truman Capote's *Grass Harp*, opens in August just before the other theaters' seasons start again. **EW**

architecture

It Takes a World to Rebuild Berlin

Not to mention some clashing ideologies and a tumbling wall

War is bad for children and other living things — oh, and cities, too. When the rubble gets cleared, every rebuilt brick and concrete slab demonstrates the ways populations choose to view their history.

The UO's Department of Architecture is trying to teach its students to deal with that devastation — and to connect historical rebuilding projects to the wars of today.

On Tuesday, Jan. 8, around 175 people in the UO's Lawrence Hall heard from SUNY history professor Brian Ladd, an expert on the reconstruction of Berlin. At the end of WWII, Berlin was basically destroyed, and Germany squirmed under the world's microscope as Allied soldiers uncovered the mountains of evidence at death camps.

With a capital city in ruins and two clashing superpowers (the U.S. and the Soviet Union) fighting over its physical remains and the ideological fallout from the defeat of the Third Reich, postwar Germany had a lot of rebuilding to do. Ladd explained that the reconstruction choices speak volumes about the history of the 20th century.

Ladd's talk was part of a two-year lecture series that began last year with a focus on memory, memorials and museums after war; this term, the series focuses on rebuilding after war or disaster. Series organizer and UO architecture prof Howard Davis says that Ladd, who in 1997 published *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in an Urban Landscape*, started this year with a thoughtful look at a complex topic.

"Berlin is the most visible example of a city that's been destroyed and then rebuilt," Davis says. And he liked having an historian speaking about Berlin because, he says "the architectural history of the city is so connected to the political history."

Davis, who is teaching a seminar in conjunction with the public lecture series (which runs at 7:30 pm every Tuesday through Feb. 19 in 177 Lawrence), says that the issues are timely, and that "students are quite hungry for thinking about what they're doing in connection with what's going on in the real world, things like war and peace or social change."

And indeed, Ladd began studying the reconstruction of Berlin as a student. "It was an extraordinary experience to go to Berlin 20 years ago and find a place where one sensed history was everywhere — and that it really, really mattered." Because the Nazis had particular urban plans under Albert Speer, Ladd says, and because it took a while for West Germany to begin dealing with the consequences of Nazism, "People were fighting constantly about the meaning of



Berlin's Stalinallee

local and national history."

Berlin residents, he said, were "passionately committed to one or another meaning of history and the disposition of particular sites, places and buildings." Both sides — East and West Germany, influenced by the Soviet Union and the U.S., respectively — "had a desire to break with and declare superiority over the Nazi past." But the ways they went about that differed following the war.

Ladd used slides to point out that the image of postwar Berlin, with piles of rubble, looks "unfortunately like many places in the late 20th and early 21st century."

After the Cold War began in earnest with the 1948 blockade of West Berlin (which was located completely in East Germany) and the 1949 Berlin airlift, rebuilding plans became especially contentious.

In East Berlin, which took directives about architectural planning from Moscow, a huge new boulevard called Stalinallee (now Karl-Marx-Allee) reoriented much of the city. The massive apartment buildings on the Stalinallee soon reflected, Ladd said, "the Communists' claims to taking the mantle of German culture and bringing it to new life."

Meanwhile, in West Berlin, architects followed suggestions that refused to orient buildings along a single street. Instead, the razed and rebuilt Hansa quarter was supposed to reflect "the decentralized nature of the free market given physical form."

But after the 1950s, both sides tended towards large apartment buildings to ease housing shortages, Ladd said, which is when East German prefabricated concrete blocks "came under attack for adding to the monotony of street life."

After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, the focus soon became reunification and an attempt to make Berlin look like a capital city again. However, Ladd pointed out, some of that attempt soon became a look backward at the Berlin of the 1920s — or an attempt to wipe out evidence both of the Nazi regime and of East Germany.

"Reconstruction," Ladd said, "is seen as an act of civic affirmation, which it is, but is also denounced, rightly, as an act of historical denial."

Grad student Nora Driver said that she could relate Ladd's talk to planning in Eugene. "What parts of the past do people want to preserve?" — *Suzi Steffen*

Look for a Q&A with Brian Ladd on blogs.eugeneweekly.com on Friday, Jan. 11. Next week: Hiroo Ichikawa on Tokyo. More info available at aaa.uoregon.edu or 346-3656.



Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada) and Amir (Zekiria Ebrahimi) go fly a kite in *The Kite Runner*

Parallel Lines

Kite Runner a bit too neat

THE KITE RUNNER: Directed by Marc Forster. Written by David Benioff, based on the book by Khaled Hosseini. Cinematography, Roberto Schaefer. Music, Alberto Iglesias. Starring Khalid Abdalla, Atossa Leoni, Shaun Toub, Zekiria Ebrahimi, Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada and Homayoun Ershadi. Paramount Classics, 2007. PG-13. 122 minutes. ★★☆☆☆

If you saw the preview for Marc Forster's (*Monster's Ball*) adaptation of *The Kite Runner* and thought the overblown voiceover and tacky gold title made the movie look like a bit of a chore to watch, you're not alone. Little about the preview looked appealing beyond the dark eyes of Khalid Abdalla, who stars as Amir, a writer living in the Bay Area in 2000. A phone call from an old family friend who speaks meaningfully of "a way to be good again" sends Amir home to Afghanistan, but not before Forster treats us to a lengthy, languid flashback that explains some of the caller's mysterious offer.

Amir's complex history encompasses friendship, betrayal, class, family, secrets and the flying of kites (and what flying it is). In flashback, Amir (played as boy by Zekiria Ebrahimi) is best friends with his father's servant's son, Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada), a solid, warm boy. Hassan and Amir fly kites, run through marketplaces or sit in a pomegranate grove together as equals though they're aware of the differences in their social status. Amir is a reticent child who writes stories and hangs back from conflict, even when his fear has terrible consequences for Hassan — and ultimately for their friendship, which Amir, guilt-ridden, can't maintain. When the Russians arrive in Afghanistan, they're not the only thing dividing the former friends. The tanks rolling down the street are just the most concrete division as Amir and his Baba flee the country without knowing what's become of Hassan and his father.

Amir grows up in America; his father (Homayoun Ershadi, steely but warm), previously wealthy, works in a gas station. College graduation, a wedding, a published novel: All is well for Amir until the fateful

call comes, drawing him back to a homeland that isn't at all like he remembers. What happens there is the result of a tangle of secrets and horrors; what follows is the result of Amir's quiet desire to make up for his failings as a child (which is rather like *Atonement*, really).

The Kite Runner is a better film than the previews led me to expect, but it's far from perfect. Its adult star is so self-contained as to sometimes be unreadable, though Abdalla rises to the challenge of subtly expressing Amir's feelings for Soraya (Atossa Leoni). The boys who play young Hassan and Amir, on the other hand, are wonderful, guileless and sweet in the certainty of their friendship, withdrawn and quiet once that friendship shatters. As he did with Freddie Highmore in *Finding Neverland*, Forster draws the most moving performances from his youngest actors, which becomes a weakness when the film returns to Amir's adulthood. What happens when Amir returns to his homeland is more traditionally exciting, sure, but it's all too neatly lined up. Too much hinges on a knot of coincidences that stretches the viewer's disbelief until, with the release of a sling-shot, it snaps.

Melodramatic weakness aside, *The Kite Runner*'s strengths are just enough to carry it. The film doesn't go into great depth about Afghan culture, but what it does show, from a lively Kabul (though the Kabul-set scenes were filmed in China) to Amir and Soraya's wedding, is layered and welcome. Forster doesn't entirely shy away from the atrocities in the story, settling just long enough for the most horrific scenes to leave a mark, then carrying on — a tactic which feels both shallow and compassionate at once. If it feels as if there are pieces of reality missing from this story, shadings of politics and history that never come into sharp focus, the film's first half is nonetheless engaging enough that it's not until later that something seems absent, as if Amir's story ran parallel, never truly connecting, to a larger tale we can't see.

The Kite Runner opens Friday, Jan. 11, at the Bijou.

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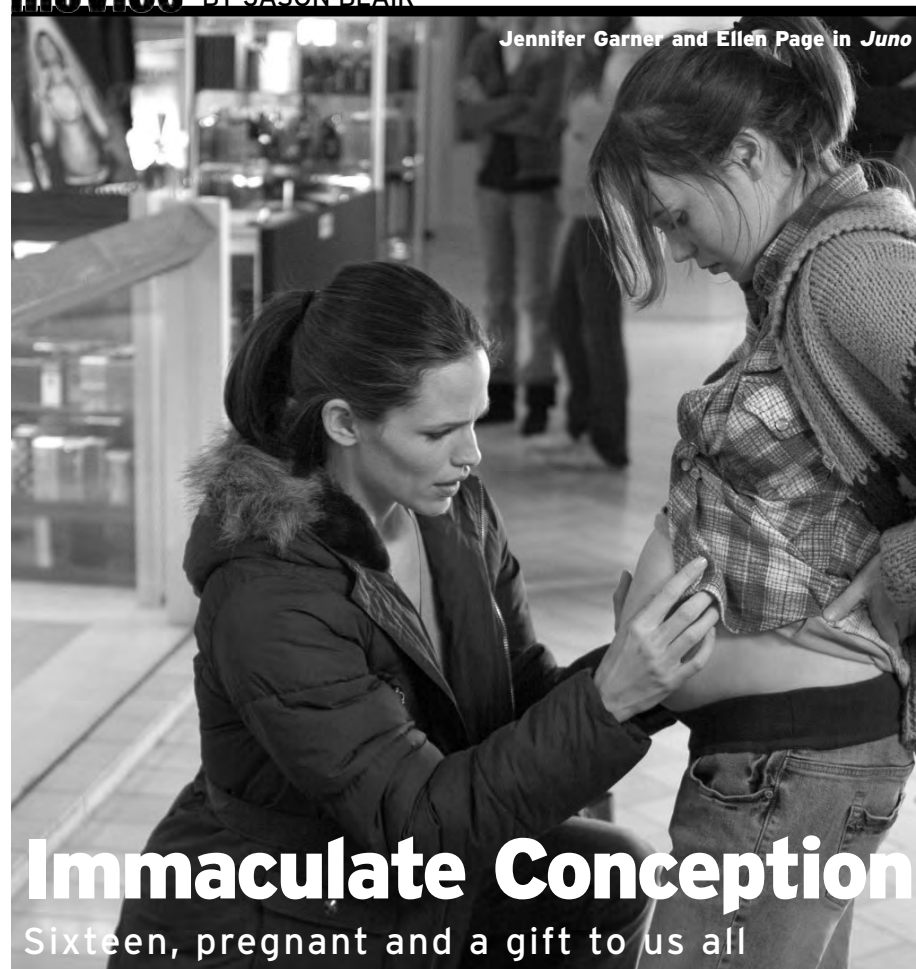
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Immaculate Conception

Sixteen, pregnant and a gift to us all

JUNO: Directed by Jason Reitman. Written by Diablo Cody. Cinematography, Eric Steelberg. Music, Matt Messina. Starring Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney and J.K. Simmons. Fox Searchlight, 2007. PG-13. 92 minutes. ★★★★★

Like many of you, I’d been waiting for *Juno* to appear like one anticipates the arrival of a newborn baby. That is to say, not without trepidation, but with the sense that the world might be changed by its arrival. To pass the time, I did plenty of research, preparing myself as best I could, but alas, I couldn’t escape the feeling that upon delivery, something would go horribly wrong with *Juno*. Some defect might emerge that *in utero* wasn’t detected by the scant images (and squeaky folk tunes) comprising the theatrical preview. (As beguiling a preview, I might add, as any in recent memory.) It’s therefore a pleasure to report that *Juno* has arrived safely into the world and, at least in terms of comedy films, the world is a better place for it.

After a quirky, animated title sequence, director Jason Reitman (*Thank You for Smoking*) cuts efficiently to the chase: Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) and Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera), following a single sexual encounter in a lounge chair, manage to impregnate tiny Juno, who’s all of 16. The encounter, the result of idle curiosity between friends, is filmed tactfully, maximizing the awkwardness between them. Told in retrospect, the scene sets up the twin themes of the film, namely the sweet agony of surviving adolescence — at one point, Juno feigns hanging herself with a licorice noose, before calling a friend with her hamburger phone — and the difficulty of entering adulthood too soon. Juno, with the support of her parents (J.K. Simmons and Allison Janney) and best friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby), hatches a plan to offer the baby for adoption, leaving Paulie noticeably out of the equation.

Complications ensue in the form of Mark (Jason Bateman) and Vanessa (Jennifer Garner), the couple Juno chooses to adopt her “sea monkey.” Wealthy and

wholesome, they couldn’t be more excited about the adoption. At least, one of them couldn’t. The other isn’t so sure. This revelation, in particular the way Diablo Cody’s script allows it to surface, is what elevates *Juno* from a very good film to a great one. Suddenly, everything Juno has taken for granted unravels, forcing her, as she puts it, to confront matters “way beyond my maturity level.” The film, formerly tender, fragile and crammed with music, becomes a tale of emotional survival, in which some relationships will crumble and others will be restored. In that sense, *Juno* is this year’s *Little Miss Sunshine*, although to my mind, *Juno* is a slightly better film.

Not that *Juno*, which hits often, doesn’t miss. During the first third, the script resembles a teen jargon generator; by trying too earnestly to create authentic teen chatter — Leah’s reaction to Juno’s pregnancy is “Honest to blog?” — the movie falls into an instant-messaging trap, a self-consciously clever but ultimately disposable dead-end. (The now-famous “homeskillet” scene is too clever by half.) But after faltering ever so slightly, the film asserts itself by virtue of its ensemble cast — a most unlikely ensemble cast, I’ll grant you, but a cast that nonetheless deserves the moniker. Simmons (*Superman Returns*) has never been used so effectively, while Janney (*The West Wing*) finally seems comfortable on film. Both Bateman and Garner are at their very best here, but it’s Garner who breaks new ground for herself, so delicately does she play a woman whose self-worth is linked to motherhood. But the biggest star in *Juno* is tiny Ellen Page, who more than delivers on the potential she displayed in last year’s bracing *Hard Candy*. Page is what they used to call an *ingénue*; only 20, she has that rarest quality of getting stronger, not unlike *Juno* itself, with each passing frame. One of the year’s best films, *Juno* is impossibly sweet, but sweetest when it isn’t trying to be too smart. **EW**

Juno is now playing at Cinemark and VRC Stadium 15.

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Not Stranger than Fiction

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ATONEMENT: Directed by Joe Wright. Written by Christopher Hampton, based on the novel by Ian McEwan. Cinematography, Seamus McGarvey. Music, Dario Marianelli. Starring James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai and Vanessa Redgrave. Focus Features, 2007. 130 min. R. ★★☆☆☆

What does it mean to tell a story? It’s a simple question, but it’s one that can rarely be asked alone. What kind of story? A true story? A fanciful tale? To whom is the story told? And what shall we make of the teller?

The key teller of stories in *Atonement*, which is based on the exceptional novel by Ian McEwan, is Briony Tallis (the icy-eyed Saoirse Ronan), a 13-year-old writer with a fiery imagination and a sizable amount of self-importance. On a hot summer afternoon and evening in England in 1935, Briony orbits around the people at her family estate, including her older sister, the willowy Cambridge graduate Cecilia (Keira Knightley); their housekeeper’s son, Robbie (James McAvoy), who also went to Cambridge but has since returned to work in the Tallis’ garden; and assorted other family members, including Lola (Juno Temple), a redheaded cousin, and Lola’s terrible twin brothers. As the evening progresses, Briony witnesses things she should never have seen, let alone presumed to understand. Her version of the events that transpire sends Robbie to prison and alien-



Briony (Saoirse Ronan) and Robbie (James McAvoy) in *Atonement*

ates Briony from her elder sister. What Briony couldn’t or wouldn’t understand, Cecilia was sharply aware of: the change in the air between Cecilia and Robbie as buried feelings came to light.

Several years later, Cecilia and Robbie meet again, but on the eve of parting; he got out of prison by joining the army and is about to leave for France. Here the film shifts from the rooms and grounds of the Tallis home, with its sun-drenched lawns and dark libraries, to the messy battlefields of France and sterile hallways of the hospitals where Cecilia (and later Briony) works.

But the scene works backwards, from dark to light. When Cecilia carefully sets her hand atop Robbie’s; when his other hand, stirring coffee, skips in its rhythm, all the feeling contained by the drawing rooms and fountains of the film’s first half seems to burst free, emanating from James McAvoy’s thin face, his head down, his eyes heavy. By the end of lunch, strings are swelling as he parts ways with Cecilia. Here, the lush music is appropriate for this interlude between dark times and darker, but later Dario Marianelli’s score fails the movie.

The somewhat older Briony is a girl

unnerved, a woman growing increasingly aware of the effect she had on a handful of lives. Though Romola Garai (*Amazing Grace*) seems oddly cast as the 18-year-old nurse-in-training — where Ronan was elfin, Garai is solid, earthier, almost plain — her changed presence, uncertain and self-contained, too guilty, still, to say a word, is preparation for the emotional tumult yet to come.

Director Joe Wright (*Sense and Sensibility*) doesn’t get everything right in *Atonement*. The film is at times stuffy, a little stiff, and is dotted with moments that, though striking in prose, become overwrought on film. An astounding tracking shot on the beach at Dunkirk is quite beautiful, but it distracts with its own technical grace rather than serving the narrative; a not-quite-revelatory moment is paired with a crashing organ chord, as if we’d never have guessed what the film is showing us. But Wright has an ace he saves until the very end: Vanessa Redgrave, who, as a much older Briony, takes us straight to the point of those questions about story, as well as others about guilt, regret and the value of truth, in a story or out. As there are multiple perspectives on the scenes Briony, all those years ago, saw so darkly, there are many takes on what it means when, in its final scenes, *Atonement* turns in on itself. It’s not a comfortable ending, but it’s magnificent in the power it gives to truth and to fiction, which the older Briony understands is a different kind of truth — even when it doesn’t tell what “really” happened.

Atonement is now playing at Cinemark and VRC Stadium 15.

movie clips

OPENING OR RETURNING:

Bucket List, The: Jack Nicholson, I expect this kind of thing from. But Morgan Freeman? In this schmaltzy-sounding flick about two new friends trying to cram all the adventures of a lifetime into a considerably shorter amount of time? Oh, Rob Reiner. Once upon a time, you made a good movie or two. PG13. 97 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

First Sunday: Ice Cube and Tracy Morgan star as hapless criminals trying to come up with a chunk of cash in order to keep one's son from being taken. So they decide to rob a church. Do you think all goes well? PG13. 98 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

In the Name of the King: Let us not forget that in 2006, director Uwe Boll (*Bloodrayne*) challenged his harshest critics to boxing matches. What boxing ability has to do with movie appreciation, I couldn't tell you — but it's funny. Boll's new film involves a good man (Jason Statham) who takes on a sorcerer (Ray Liotta) after the sorcerer captures his wife (Claire Forlani). PG13. 150 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Kite Runner, The: Marc Forster (*Finding Neverland*) directs this adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's novel about a writer who is drawn back to the Afghanistan of his youth in order to help an old friend's son. In flashback, Forster draws wonderful performances from two young actors, but the adult Amir's storyline hinges too heavily on coincidence. PG13. 127 min. Bijou. Cinemark.

Lars and the Real Girl: The remarkable Ryan Gosling (*Half Nelson*) stars as Lars, who meets and brings home Bianca, a life-sized doll he treats as if she were a person. The film's "daring and delicate blend of apparent irreconcilables will sweep you off your feet if you're not careful," said *Los Angeles Times*. PG13. 106 min. Bijou. ★★☆☆☆ (11/1)

OpenLens Film Festival: The fourth annual event features competitive films from SW Oregon filmmakers along with the premiere of the documentary *Monster Camp*, workshops, the Youth Visions video festival and more. Hosted by Portland producer/director Aaron Kirk Douglas. Jan. 11-13, DIVA. For full schedule, visit diva.proscenia.net

Orphanage, The: This debut film from director Juan Antonio Bayona involves secrets and the supernatural in the story of an orphanage that was the childhood home of a girl, now grown, who wants to go back to it. But things changed after she left. "An unexpectedly poignant ghost story," said *The Los Angeles Times*. R. 100 min. Cinemark.

Pirates Who Don't Do Anything, The: Those talking side dishes return in the latest Veggie Tales movie, in which three veggie pals set sail into the 17th century and learn what it means to be heroes. G. Cinemark.

Thirty Days of Night: Thirty days of darkness in small-town Alaska make the place a haven for things that like the dark in this film, based on the graphic novel of the same name. Starring Josh Hartnett and — ooh! — Danny Huston, who raises the level of anything he's in. But can he do it here? R. 113 min. Movies 12.

Twenty-seven Dresses: Current It Girl Katherine Heigl

(*Knocked Up*) stars in this always a bridesmaid, never a bride story of Jane, whose sister gets the guy Jane's in love with. But with James Marsden (*Enchanted*) around, you've got to assume Jane's not going to have a totally unhappy ending. PG. Sneak preview 2:30 pm Jan. 13 at VRC Stadium 15.

Films open the Friday following EW publication date unless otherwise noted. See archived reviews at www.eugeneweekly.com

CONTINUING:

Across the Universe: Julie Taymor (*Titus*, Broadway's *The Lion King*) puts her ambitious but unsatisfying spin on a love story built around Beatles songs, following a young man (Jim Sturgess) and the girl he falls for (Evan Rachel Wood) amid the tumult of the 1960s. PG13. 131 min. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (10/18)

Alien vs. Predator: Requiem: Honest to goodness, I didn't even know they were making another AVP until I saw an ad last week. Directors Colin and Greg Strause did visual effects work on *300*, which ought to be enough to get a certain audience into theaters to watch the nasty monsters fight. R. 86 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Alvin and the Chipmunks: What's next? A live-action Care Bears movie starring Jason Lee? (He's in this and *Underdog*, for those not keeping track.) Those wacky little creatures with the high-pitched voices will surely cause him some trouble in this newest bit of family fare. With, um, David Cross. Now I'm confused. PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

American Gangster: Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe face off in the story of 1970s driver turned drug lord Frank Lucas (Washington) and the cop investigating Lucas and his unexpected rise to power. Directed by Ridley Scott. R. 157 min. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (11/8)

Atonement: Finally, Joe Wright's adaptation of Ian McEwan's exceptional — and exceptionally difficult to summarize — novel comes to town. *Atonement* takes place across years, as the actions of young Briony (Saoirse Ronan) have lengthy, unimagined consequences to the futures of her sister Cecilia (Keira Knightley) and their housekeeper's son, Robbie (James McAvoy). R. 123 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. **See review this issue.**

Bee Movie: Not much looks all that sweet about this animated comedy, in which Jerry Seinfeld voices a recent bee college graduate who learns, to his shock, that humans have been stealing bees' honey for ages and ages. With the voices of Renee Zellweger and Matthew Broderick. PG. 90 min. Movies 12.

Blade Runner: The Final Cut: Ridley Scott used archival footage in this new version of the classic, influential sci-fi film, making the story of replicant hunter Deckard (Harrison Ford) darker yet again (following the previous director's cut). Not rated. 138 min. Bijou.

Charlie Wilson's War: Mike Nichols directs from an Aaron Sorkin script this political ... drama? comedy? ... about a

congressman (Tom Hanks) who combined forces with a CIA agent (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and a rich socialite (Julia Roberts) to direct a massive covert operation during the Cold War era. R. 97 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. ★★☆☆☆ (1/3)

Dan in Real Life: Poor Dan (Steve Carrell) is an advice columnist with a passel of daughters whose life is further complicated when he falls for his brother's girlfriend (Juliette Binoche). Also, the brother is played by Dane Cook. PG13. 99 min. Movies 12.

Eagle vs. Shark: "*Napoleon Dynamite* in New Zealand" is both too glib a description and not that far off for this overly quirky film about two peculiar characters who sort of fall in love — when one's not "training" to defeat his high school nemesis in single combat. Still, it's not without its charms. R. 87 min. Bijou LateNite. ★★☆☆☆ (12/20)

Fred Claus: So what if Santa had a brother? Who happened to be the opposite of the saintly gift-giver: a repo man? That's the basic premise of this film, but the reason people will see it, I suspect, is for Paul Giamatti in a Santa suit getting in a fight with Vince Vaughn. PG. 116 min. Movies 12.

Game Plan, The: The Rock stretches his dramatic skills as a football player faced with a strange challenge: a little girl who claims to be his daughter. PG. Movies 12.

Golden Compass, The: An only slightly above average film — mostly on account of the fantastic casting — based on Philip Pullman's utterly brilliant novel. In a world much like our own, everyone has an animal companion who's part of themselves, and one little girl (newcomer Dakota Blue Richards) is the key to saving not just her own world, but countless others as well. With Daniel Craig, Nicole Kidman, Sam Elliott and Eva Green. PG13. 113 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. ★★☆☆☆ (12/13)

Great Debaters, The: Denzel Washington (who also directs) stars in the (based-on-a-true) story of a debate coach in the segregated South who leads his Texas college team to a face-off with Harvard. PG13. 123 min. VRC Stadium 15.

Hitman: Timothy Olyphant, go back to *Deadwood*! No, kidding, kidding. But honestly, I'm not sure this videogame-based film about a professional assassin trying to find out who set him up (wait, does this remind anyone of Jason Bourne?) is the best place for you. R. 100 min. Movies 12.

I Am Legend: Will Smith does the all-by-his-lonesome thing in a New York City left not exactly empty after a manmade virus devastates the globe. During the day, he tries to find other survivors; at night, he tries to survive the creatures that are what's left of humanity. PG13. 100 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. ★★☆☆☆ (12/20)

Juno: Director Jason Reitman's turned out another buzz-worthy movie, this time with a screenplay by newcomer Diablo Cody. Ellen Page (*Hard Candy*) plays a pregnant teenager dealing with herself, her future, her parents, the best friend who fathered the kid and the couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) who wants to adopt it. PG13. 96 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. **See review this issue.**

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium: This story about a magical toy store, its owner (Dustin Hoffman) and the young shop employee who might inherit it (Natalie Portman) is written and directed by Zach Helm, who also wrote last year's *Stranger Than Fiction*. G. 94 min. Movies 12.

National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Nicolas Cage returns for more adventure and hijinks — something to do with the president's secret book (hey, this sounds like *Crooked Little Vein*) and clearing his family's name; did great-great grandpa have something to do with Lincoln's assassination? With Helen Mirren. PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

No Country for Old Men: The latest from the Coen brothers is a near-masterpiece, an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's acclaimed novel, and it's earning plenty of acclaim itself. The story involves a small-town sheriff, a deadly drug deal and a psychopathic killer (Javier Bardem). The reviewers say "intense," "searing," "an evil delight." R. 122 min. VRC Stadium 15. ★★☆☆☆ (11/29)

One Missed Call: Cell phones are scary, especially when they, um, play voicemails for you? That are of your own death? Who thinks this stuff up? Didn't electronics-as-nightmare-devices already fail with *Pulse*? Ah well. Starring Shannyn Sossamon and Edward Burns. PG13. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

P.S. I Love You: Holly (Hilary Swank) must go on without the love of her life, Gerry (Gerard Butler) when illness strikes. But for her 30th birthday, she gets a letter and a tape from Gerry, telling her how to make the most of her life. Sorry, have to end this there; I feel a bit queasy from all the sweetness. PG13. 126 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

Resident Evil: Extinction: Alice (Milla Jovovich) is *still* trying to get rid of that pesky zombie-making virus. For this third film in the series, Alice gets new friends (we suspect they replace those zombieified last time out) including *Heroes'* Ali Larter and singer Ashanti. R. 95 min. Movies 12.

Sweeney Todd: Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter (and Alan Rickman!) star in Tim Burton's take on the Broadway musical about a murderous barber who's sworn revenge for what happened to his wife and daughter. "Depp is simply stupendous," says *Rolling Stone*. R. 117 min. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15. ★★☆☆☆ (12/27)

3:10 to Yuma: Russell Crowe and Christian Bale costar in this solid Western from director James Mangold (*Walk the Line*). Based on a short story by Elmore Leonard that was made into a film in 1957, the film follows a vicious outlaw (Crowe) and the Civil War vet (Bale) who's volunteered to get the thief to the train that'll take him to trial. R. 117 min. Movies 12. ★★☆☆☆ (9/13)

Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: It's nice to see Ben Chaplin (*The Truth About Cats and Dogs*) again, even if it's in this too-cute-but-still-charming children's film about a boy who finds a mysterious eggs that turns into a mythical creature. Directed by Jay Russell (*My Dog Skip*). PG. Cinemark. VRC Stadium 15.

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Sound Smorgasbord

At first listen, **Sofia** and **JT and the Clouds** seem like strange billfellows. One is a dreamy, folksy duo; two women who play with their voices as freely as they do the poetry they set to music. The second is a soul-saturated, percussive powerhouse with harmonies that evoke old doo-wop but are somehow distinctly modern. But while their styles may be different, each band is blending genres, instruments and vocal stylings in a manner that reaches way beyond "experimentation." Both bands have a mature, confident flavor distinct to musicians who aren't just coming up with material but are in fact realizing deliberate audio creations.



Sofia

Canadian lasses Allison Russell and Awna Teixeira of Sofia have an extensive performance and touring history under their belts and recently released their first full-length album, *No Shame*. Far from the acoustic-guitar toting stereotype of the singer-songwriters of the past, Sofia's members adorn their songs with clarinet, accordion, ukulele, washboard, whistle, harmonica and banjo (to name a few), bringing an old-world, jazzy flavor to the gorgeous melodies, heartbreaking lyrics and harmonies that quiver with emotion. The band will no doubt be compared favorably to fellow maple leafs The Be Good Tanyas, but the intensely personal nature of Sofia's songs move them into a category that deserves more than just a "sounds like" description, as the duo takes both vocal and emotional risks that pay off big time for their audiences.

Critical darlings out of Chicago, JT and the Clouds are really tough to categorize, and they like it that way. Their latest album *the city's hot yeah the city's hot* features track after track that contain a century of musical influence, yet don't sound muddy or rehashed. The lead vocals (courtesy of "JT" Lindsay) can be appealingly and deliberately campy, yet change from louny to intimate in a split second, buoyed by energetic backing harmonies, bass and horns. So yeah, I guess you could say they are pretty much a soul band, but expect to hear some swing, blues, folk and indie rock in there too. Create your own category if you must; JT and the Clouds will just bust it wide open with their next album.

Sofia and JT and the Clouds are old touring buddies and likely to put on a show that is both soothingly polished and spontaneously energetic. Something for everyone who likes music from the horizon. Sofia and JT and the Clouds play at 8:30 pm Sunday, Jan. 13, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$6-\$10. – Adrienne van der Valk

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Eric John Kaiser

Je Ne Sais Quoi

A world traveler himself, **Eric John Kaiser** makes the kind of laid back, acoustic-based music that innocuously drifts through hostels and smoky hookah bars the world over. He's a folk troubadour for the backpacking set and he infuses his folk-rock-and-sometimes-funk sound with a little bit of Wyclef Jean, a little Manu Chao and a whole lot of Jack Johnson. But what separates Kaiser from most mellowed-out island minstrels is that he sings his bubbly songs in French.

As an expatriate in Paris, Kaiser performed more than 300 concerts and recorded three EPs with his former band, Melt. He also played with the French artist Katherine while residing in France. He

recorded his first solo album, *L'ODYssée*, in July 2006 in Paris with fellow French musicians, including Feniksi from the hip-hop group Saïan Supa Crew, and he has since played concerts in Australia, Hong Kong, Saint Croix and the Pacific Northwest. Kaiser now lives in Portland, where he has performed more than 100 concerts and become a staple of the Northwest coffee-house and college scene. His smooth French accent is like a fine champagne in a world of java and joe, and his tropical, acoustic shuffles are a nice shot of sun in an otherwise somber climate. Sit down, close your eyes and you'll feel like you're being serenaded on a beach in France. Eric John Kaiser plays at 7 pm Thursday, Jan. 17, at Cozmic Pizza. \$5. – Jeremy Ohmes

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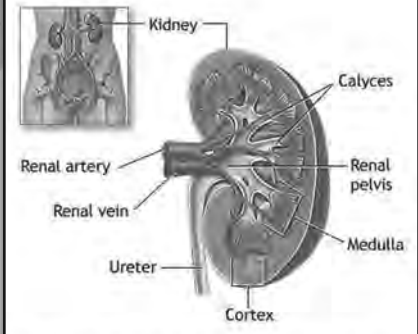
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Voronezhskie Devchata
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photo pose,
yes?

Kiss Me, I'm Slavic

Third year for the Slavic Festival

I'm betting you've never seen a "Kiss Me, I'm Slavic" T-shirt on a thrift store rack, but Matt Ivashov and the organizers of this year's Slavic Festival hope that someday you will. For a number of years the Slavic Festival was only for members of the Slavic community. But the Slavic Festival was opened to the public in 2006, and the response has been great. "With every festival it's growing year after year," says Ivashov, who was born in the Soviet Union and emigrated to the United States with his family in 1986. He's been in Eugene since 1997, and in addition to his volunteer work around the community and for the Slavic Festival, he's focused on becoming a U.S. citizen.

Many people simply do not know what Slavic culture is, according to Ivashov, nor do they appreciate its great diversity and richness of heritage. Slavic people include Russians, Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Slovenians, Croats, Bosnians, Serbs, Montenegrins, Macedonians and Bulgarians. "Our mission is diversity, so people can learn about other cultures and be aware of other cultures," Ivashov says. "A lot of people perceive Eastern Europe as just this former communist bloc, and there's a lot more to it than that. And for a long time people couldn't travel and they couldn't spread their culture."

Slavic Festival 2008 encompasses special events at various venues over January 17-26. Visit Springfield's Regional Sports Center January 19-20 for an entertainment stage with an amazing array of talent, a kids' area and food prepared by Eugene's Eastern European grocery store and deli, Zolotoy Petushok ("Golden Rooster"). The kids will get to make Russian *beregynya* (rug) dolls, decorate Easter eggs (*pysanka*), decorate plates, make clay animal figures and make and decorate traditional Russian head-pieces (*kokoshnik*). If that's not enough to keep them happy, there's a marathon of Russian

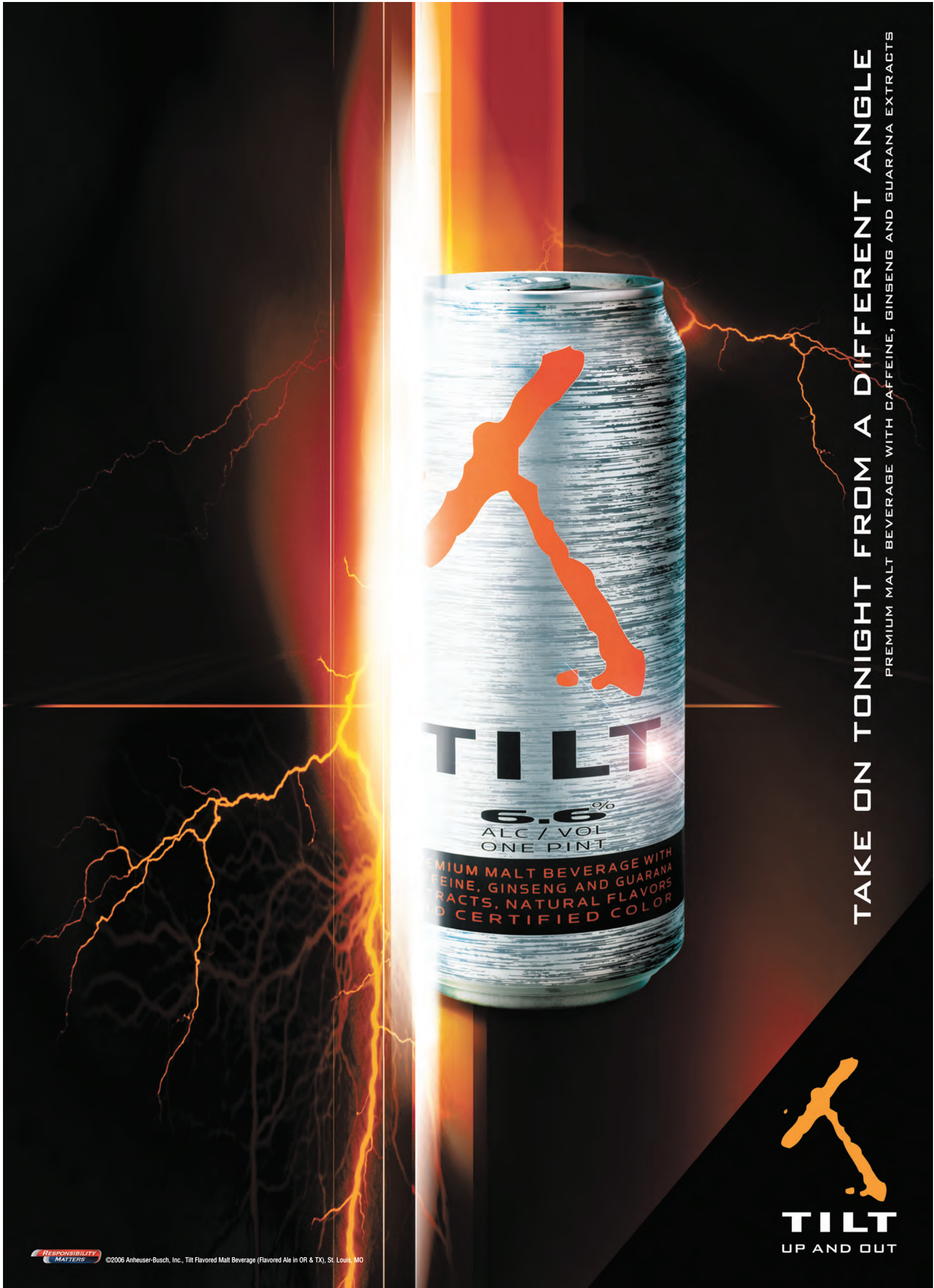
cartoons, and Slavic music and storytelling.

The entertainment lineup sounds thrilling. Russian vocal and dance ensemble **Voronezhskie Devchata** ("Voronezh Girls") performs lyrical songs sung by women. Their performances are versatile enough to find them interpreting both traditional Russian choral folklore and contemporary pieces. Ukrainian violin virtuoso **Sergey Ryabtsev** (who also performs with New York's "gypsy punk" band Gogol

Bordello) will appear, performing solo as well as with his group Barynya. Barynya performs Russian, Ukrainian, Russian Gypsy, Cossack and Klezmer dancing and music. **Vilona** features two lovely girls who will amaze you with their violin takes on folk, classic and rock tunes. And Eugene's own **Trio Voronezh** performs their repertoire of the classical works of Bach, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky and Schubert, Russian folk music and popular tunes. Dance ensemble **Veselka** will present Ukrainian traditions through dance and song, and **Ivan da Marya** presents folk dance and musical modernizations of traditional Russian folk music. One North Dakota couple with Czechoslovakian ancestry, **Richard and Judie Kardmas**, plays Czech and German songs from the '40s and '50s. There's even a professional opera singer, **Anna Kazakova-Simpson**, booked.

It's difficult to choose which of the additional events is the most exciting. The musical play *An Old Fairy Tale in New World or How the Style of Three Made a Joyless Princess Laugh* is a modern retelling of an old folk tale. The Hult Center's "Star Filled Russian Nights — The Slavic Wonderland" brings together many of these performers for a one-time only gala concert with dance, songs, music and costumes from their many Slavic homes. "It brings together people who love life, love having a good time, and learning about other cultures," Ivashov says.

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THURSDAY JAN. 10

AXE & FIDDLE Cabin Kind-8; Bluegrass
BLACK FOREST Pink Snowflakes, Birds Love Filters-10; Rock
THE CITY DJ Simy-10; 80s, techno, reggae
THE COOLER Karaoke-9:30
COUNTRYSIDE Mr. Wizard-9
COZMIC PIZZA Lauren Mulderrig-9
DIABLO'S DJs The Fist & Supa J-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Take Your Last Breath, Kenny Norris & His Bullets, AVID-10; Indie, alt-pop
DUCK INN Ben Coleman's Karaoke-9
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Karaoke Contest-7
ELDORADO Karaoke-9
GOODFELLAS Johnny Wilde Jam-9:30
HAPPY HOURS Karaoke w/Jim-8:30
JOGGER'S DJ Tino-10; Hip hop, R&B, dancehall
JOHN HENRY'S 80s Night w/Chris, Jen and John-10
LATITUDE 21 Scottie One Drop's Reggae-Hip Hop-Funk Jam-10
LUCKEY'S 1000-10; Indie
MACENZIS TOO Karaoke-7
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Jazz Jam w/The Richardson Trio-8
THE OLD PAD Karaoke-9
OVERTIME GRILL West Side Blues Jam-8
PEABODY'S PUB Patrick & Giri-7:30;

Acoustic rock

RED LION HOTEL Skip Jones & Byron Case-7
ROCK 'N' RODEO Ladies' Night w/Jon Michaels-8:30; Country, rock
SAM BOND'S The Poisonous Birds-9; Jazz
SPIRITS Normal Bean's Jam Night-9
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9; Hip hop
TAYLOR'S DJ Red Fox-10; hip hop
VILLAGE GREEN Karaoke-7
WETLANDS Grateful Dead on DVD-10

FRIDAY JAN. 11

AXE & FIDDLE Gaye Lee Russell Band-8:30; Blues
BEANERY Sam Alexander-7
BLACK FOREST Sirens of Mothra, Telepathic Dumpster-10; Rock
THE CITY DJ Simy-10; Hip hop revolution, top 40
CLUB 420 Karaoke-9
COUNTRYSIDE Latigo-9
COZMIC PIZZA The Ben Rice Blues Band, Roots Revival-9
DIABLO'S DJ Supa J-10; All-request
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE The Athiarchists, The Procrastinators, Monday with a Bullet, Jean Grey-10; Metal
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Tony Rae & Common Ground-9; Jazz, blues

ELDORADO Karaoke-9
HAPPY HOURS The Alliance Party Band-9
INDIGO DISTRICT DJ Hoop Dreams & DJ Adam-10; Hip hop, electro
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/DJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
LATITUDE 21 Da Real Thing-10:30; Reggae, hip hop, dancehall
LAVELLES Gus Russell-5:30
LUCKEY'S The Viking Funeral, Elk Teeth, Dr. Helicopter-10; Indie, rock
MAC'S AT THE VET'S CLUB Skip Jones & Gus Russell-8:30; Piano boogie
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Olem Alves-5:30. Whiskey Spots-9
THE O BAR Karaoke-9
OK TAVERN Lorrie's Karaoke-9
PEABODY'S PUB Karaoke-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJs Jon Michaels & Rob Reynolds-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
ROGUE BREWERY Mr. Bill's Trivia Show-8
SAM BOND'S Tempo No Tempo, Swim Swam Swum-9:30; Rock
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke-8
SPIRITS The Greg Glass Project-9
TAYLOR'S DJ Prestine-10
VET'S CLUB BALLROOM DJ Mario Mora-9:30; Salsa
WANDERING GOAT Mood Area 52-7; Tango
WORLD CAFE Conjugal Visitors, Bad Mitten Orchestre, Luminessah, The Blair St. Mugwumps-7
WORLD FLAVORS Eagle Park Slim & Guests-9; Birthday bash
WOW HALL Section Quartet, Leo London-9; Acoustic rock string quartet

SATURDAY JAN. 12

AXE & FIDDLE Hillstomp, Sassparilla-8:30; Punkgrass, blues, jug band
BEANERY Eric Nicholson-7
BEL AMI LOUNGE Olem Alves Trio-10; Jazz
BLACK FOREST Northwest Royale, Quandry, Back in the Dark-10; Metal, rock
THE CITY DJ Redd Fox-10; Top 40, hip hop, 80s/90s
CLUB 420 Karaoke-9
CLUB SNAFU Freaks Dance Party w/Audio Schizophrenic-9; Electro-mash
COUNTRYSIDE Latigo-9
COZMIC PIZZA Jose Cruz-9; Salsa
DIABLO'S The Vinyl Pimpz-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Comedy Workout-8.
REDOX, Three Guys That Paint, Tony

Smiley-10; Indie, powerpop, rock
DUCK INN Ben Coleman's Karaoke-9
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Tony Rae & Common Ground-9; Jazz, blues
ELDORADO Karaoke-9
INDIGO DISTRICT DJ Hoop Dreams & DJ Adam-10; Hip hop, electro
JAZZ STATION David Swigart & Doug Detrick combos-7:30
JOGGER'S Club Motion w/ VJ Ty-9:30; Hip hop, R&B & more
THE KEG Disco dance-9
LAVELLES Gus Russell-5:30
LUCKEY'S Millrace, No Go Know, Tempo No Tempo-10; Rock
MAC'S AT THE VET'S CLUB Ty Curtis Band-8:30; Rock, blues
MAIN ST. SPFD Texas Hold'Em-8
OAK ST. SPEAKEASY Craig Einhorn-5:30. Steve Larson Trio-9
PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN Brothers of Beat & Papa Soul-9; Old-school soul
PEABODY'S PUB Karaoke-9
QUACKERS The Valley Boys-9
ROCK 'N' RODEO DJ Rob Reynolds-7:30; Country, rock, top 40
SAM BOND'S Frankie Hernandez, T-Club-9:30
SAMURAI DUCK Ladon, Neversleep, Scrapyard Swag-9; Metal
SPIRITS The Greg Glass Project-9
TAP 'N' KEG Rising Phoenix-9:30; Retro mix
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Hip hop
TOMMY'S B&G Karaoke-9

WANDERING GOAT The Blair St. Mugwumps, Thieves of Sleep-8; Old-time
WOW HALL Lafa Taylor, Runaway Slave-9; Hip hop

SUNDAY JAN. 13

BLACK FOREST Comedy Showcase-8
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke w/Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA Greg Oldson, Forgotten Works-7:30
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Karaoke-9
JOHN HENRY'S Broadway Revue-10; Burlesque
MAX'S Steve Ibach-8; Acoustic guitar
PEABODY'S PUB Open Mic-7
RODEO STEAKHOUSE Family Karaoke-5
SAM BOND'S Irish jam-5. Sofia, JT & The Clouds-8:30; Americana
SAMURAI DUCK The Funeral Pyre, Book of Black Earth, SoulScythe, Ancestortooth, Vault Dweller-9; Black, death, doom
VILLAGE GREEN Christopher Klein & Teresa Martindale-6:30
WOW HALL Jason Webley & Rev. Peyton's Big Damn Band, Conjugal Visitors-9; Folk, blues

MONDAY JAN. 14

AXE & FIDDLE DJ Richard Swift-8
BLACK FOREST Karaoke-9
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke-9





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HALL FRIDAY



DIABLO'S DJ Golem-10
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Bingo-8
EARL'S JUKE JOINT Paul's Blues Jam-7
SAM BOND'S Open Mic-8:30
SAMURAI DUCK Cinder Circus-9; Fire dancing

TUESDAY JAN. 15

AXE & FIDDLE Chris Ayer-8; Acoustic rock
BLACK FOREST Roosters Blues Jam-8
BUGSY'S Karaoke-8
COUNTRY SIDE Karaoke w/Kim-9
COZMIC PIZZA PWRL Power-9:30; Singer-songwriter
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Open Mic-9

EARL'S JUKE JOINT Everybody's Jam w/James Goddard-7
FOUR CORNERS HOPHOUSE Phenwick's Wang Dang Doodle-7:30; Blues jam
GOODFELLA'S Karaoke-9
HIGHLANDS PUB Bingo-6
JAZZ STATION Jazz Jam-8
JOGGERS Karaoke-9
JOHN HENRY'S Get Fresh Tuesdays-10; Hip hop
LATITUDE 21 DJ Tekneek-10; Hip hop
LUCKEY'S Sam Hahn, Jesse Meade-10; Acoustic blues
MACHO'S PIZZA Karaoke-7
MAX'S e. geek's Knowledge Knights-7:30
MCSHANE'S Tricycle Races-9
THE O BAR Karaoke-9
PEABODY'S PUB Patrick & Giri-7:30; Acoustic rock
ROCK 'N' RODEO Texas Hold'em-6:30 iPod hip hop-9
SAM BOND'S Bluegrass jam-9

SAM'S PLACE Open Turntables-8
TABOO Phat Tuesday w/DJ Tekneek-10; Zydeco, Cajun, Creole
TAYLOR'S Karaoke-9:30
VILLAGE GREEN Jay Schlotterbeck-7; Jazz
WETLANDS Texas Hold'em-6

WEDNESDAY JAN. 16

AXE & FIDDLE Bingo-7:30
BLACK FOREST Candy Machine Wrecker, Gloria, Dagger of the Mind-10; Metal, rock, comedy
COZMIC PIZZA Youth Open Mic-7
DOWNTOWN LOUNGE Blues Jam-8

EARL'S JUKE JOINT Acoustic/electric jam w/Peter Giri-7
JOGGER'S DJ Tino-10; Hip hop, R&B, dancehall
JOHN HENRY'S DJ Kal El vs. DJ Tekneek-10; Reggae vs. hip hop
LUCKEY'S The Mood-10; Rock
LUNA Jazz jam-9
MAC'S AT THE VET'S CLUB Rainy Day Blues Society mtg., feat. Jesse Meade-6:30
MULLIGAN'S PUB Open mic-9
PAPA'S SOUL FOOD KITCHEN Delta Blues Jam-9:30
QUACKERS Blues & Funk Jam-8:30
ROCK 'N' RODEO Karaoke-8
SAM BOND'S The Whiskey Spots-9
SAM'S PLACE Karaoke-8
TAP 'N' KEG Karaoke w/Rising Phoenix Productions-8
TAYLOR'S DJ Simy-10; Jazzy house, hip hop, disco
VILLAGE GREEN Olem Alves-7:30

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SA DJ Big Brad-10; Hip hop
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French Kisses

From Gershwin to Zeppelin

Jazz may not get much attention from the big record labels or in mainstream media, but it's alive and thriving in Oregon. The annual **Portland Jazz Festival** has been winning solid audiences and growing strong; this year's edition, coming next month, features 2007 Pulitzer Prize winner **Ornette Coleman**, **Cecil Taylor** and plenty of other stars old and new. What's really exciting is the proliferation of programs in schools, colleges and community music institutes like those at The Shedd, which are turning out a generation of fine young musicians. Next week's **Oregon Jazz Festival**, the fourth representing the combined efforts of the UO and LCC jazz faculty, has become a major contributor to the state's musical development. This year's festival brings 32 Northwest high school and middle school groups to learn and perform in master classes, workshops and concerts. On Jan. 18 at LCC Performance Hall, you can see the LCC and UO jazz ensembles augmented by top notch player/teachers from around the U.S., including headliner **Luis Bonilla**, the trombone master who's played with legends from Dizzy Gillespie and McCoy Tyner to Tony Bennett and Mary J. Blige and now anchors the Mingus Big Band, Vanguard Jazz Orchestra and Jazz at Lincoln Center's Afro Cuban ensemble. On Jan. 19, Bonilla joins pianist **Randy Porter**, bassist **Dave Captein** and drummer **Gary Hobbs** along with the cream of the crop of festival participants. Anyone interested in the future of Northwest jazz should check it out.

Jazz energized American classical music as early as the 1920s, thanks especially to George Gershwin. His ever-charming "American in Paris" highlights the **Eugene Symphony's** Jan. 24 concert, along with other greatest hits of American 20th century classical music, including Samuel Barber's passionate, neo-Romantic *Violin Concerto* with soloist Stefan Jackiw. I wish the ESO had given us one of Aaron Copland's early jazz-inflected dazzlers, but instead we'll have to settle for his evergreen music from the ballet *Appalachian Spring*. The concert kicks off with the tango rhythms fueling the cinematic dances that Dominick Argento drew from his 1994 opera, *The Dream of Valentino*.

When Americans like Copland and

Gershwin actually went to Paris, they found elegant sounds that provided a welcome alternative to the overheated German romanticism that dominated concert halls elsewhere. Copland studied there, and Gershwin sought music lessons from Maurice Ravel, who asked the would-be student (already a massively successful Broadway songwriter) how much money he'd earned that year. After hearing the figure, Ravel replied, approximately, "Maybe *you* should be giving *me* lessons!" On Jan. 19, the **Oregon Mozart Players** play Ravel's limpid music from his ballet *Mother Goose*. Originally conceived as piano music for kids, this turned out to be one of the most purely beautiful scores of the 20th century — or any century. It's as magical as music gets, whether you're a kid or a grown up. The rest of this superb ~~cheese eating surrender monkeys~~ French program includes Gabriel Faure's lilting Pavane, Ravel's orchestration of Claude Debussy's *Danse* and Mozart's *Symphony #31*. OK, Wolfgang was Austrian, but he toured France and wrote this French-styled charmer during his stay there, hence its nickname: the Paris symphony. *Formidable!*

It's not just orchestras playing jazzy classics — other ostensibly "classical" aggregations have been venturing out of their gilded cage for years, such as Kronos Quartet's notorious Jimi Hendrix pastiche and Turtle Island String Quartet's excursions into jazz and bluegrass. This Friday, Jan. 11, the WOW Hall brings another adventurous foursome: L.A.'s **The Section Quartet**, who play only rock music that they arrange for their traditional two fiddles, viola and cello ensemble. And TSQ plays not just geezers like Led Zeppelin and David Bowie, but modern bands such as Radiohead, The Strokes and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

For some even more exotic sounds, try **Paul Prince's** show at Sam Bonds on Jan. 20, featuring the wide-ranging world music guitarist in new songs in Malagasy and West African styles. He'll also be joined by guests, including his former soukous-style compatriots **Ken Sokolov** and **Ian Smith**, in mostly acoustic duos and trios, and maybe another surprise or two. That same evening, Cozmic Pizza hosts the wild neo-Celtic band **Molly's Revenge**, which uses pipes, fiddles, bouzouki and more, along with the young local Scottish-Irish quintet **Tonn Nua**. **EW**



Winter Work

Cabin fever might lure us outside

There are two months in the year when I regard gardening as strictly optional. One is August. The other is January. Unless you have fruit trees on a strict spray regimen, it is hard to think of anything you really *should* do this month. But with filberts shaking out their catkins, bulbs emerging and witch hazels in full bloom, it's easy to develop a false sense of urgency, especially if the weather is nice. January sometimes produces a mild, dry spell to lure me outside. Some people just get cabin fever and even go out in the rain. You can count on the garden to provide some task worth doing when you can't stand to be inside.

Take a look through your windows before you go out. Any moldering pot plants or hydrangea heads you would be better off without? Any storm-blown twigs or tree limbs spoiling the view? Once outside, check on plants and bulbs (both in and out of containers) that are protected from the rain. Water them if they look dry, but don't water containers in freezing weather.

Liberate small bulbs from smothering tree leaves. Bulbs should be able to pierce leaf litter, I know, but some leaves, such as maple leaves of whatever size, can form tight, moisture-trapping sheets that easily defeat snowdrops, hardy cyclamen and early crocus.

Remove matted leaves from lawns, evergreen azaleas, gravel paths and your favorite mossy rocks. Leave leaf drifts where you can, however, because friendly insects, salamanders and other living things could be sheltering there.

Remove last year's leaves from Lenten roses (*Helleborus x hybridus*) as soon as possible by cutting them close to the ground. They probably still look fine, I admit, but flowering stems are already lengthening and old leaves get in their way. If you commit to removing old foliage every winter, moreover, your hellebores could emerge through a drift of small bulbs. Pure white snowdrops make a wonderful contrast with the subdued colors of hellebore flowers.

Want to do some real gardening? You can transplant snowdrops and primroses just about any time if the soil is workable. You might even get a head start on some new raised beds. If necessary, stand on wooden planks to protect subterranean shoots and to avoid compacting damp soil.

I use 8 or 10 inch boards, one inch thick, cut in handy four foot lengths.

The most important job you can tackle in winter — pruning deciduous shrubs — can be done in almost any weather, if you happen to be in the mood. Sure, you could leave it for a month or so, but there is so much else to do in February and March. Why not at least make a start on any roses, vines and shrubs that are easily accessible from paths or patios? Cut down summer-flowering clematis to one or two feet. Long, whippy new growths on wisteria should have been removed last summer, but you can do it now.

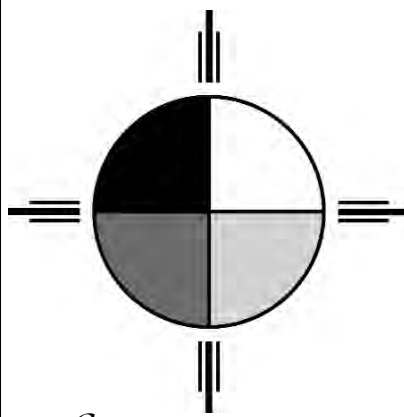
Remove spindly growth and dead wood from roses, then cut back hybrid teas by half or more, shrub roses by a third. Consider cutting out a few of the older branches that don't have many healthy green stems emerging from them. Many people don't prune their roses hard enough, in my opinion. They can take it! They will be healthier and more vigorous. Really! Totally neglected roses of almost any type can be cut down to about 15 inches. Reduce what's left to 3-7 well-spaced limbs by removing dead and older wood. Prune the remaining stems just above an outward facing bud or leaf base.

Deciduous flowering shrubs that bloom in spring or early summer carry their flowers on twigs that grew last year. They are usually pruned right after they bloom; prune them now and you'll lose some or all of their flowers. Many shrubs that bloom after mid-summer are slightly tender and are best pruned in March or April. That leaves cold-hardy woody plants that are grown for some feature other than their flowers (structure, screening, foliage or colorful stems) and shrubs so desperately in need of a trim you are ready to sacrifice bloom.

Pruning is a huge subject, and it's a part of gardening that can be intimidating at first. That's a pity, because it is also creative and should be extremely satisfying. It also happens to be something that you can easily learn from books. An excellent place to start is Cass Turnbull's *Guide to Pruning* (Sasquatch Press). This is now in its second edition, but if you find the first edition in the library or a used bookstore, it will do just fine.

Rachel Foster of Eugene is a garden consultant and author of All About Gardens, a selection of past Eugene Weekly columns. She can be reached at rfoster@efn.org

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Legal Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY. OREGON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION, an Oregon Credit Union, Plaintiff, v. KIMBERLY M. TRACY, Defendant. Case No. 16-07-19762 SUMMONS TO: KIMBERLY M. TRACY IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF OREGON: You are hereby required to appear and answer the Complaint filed against you in the above-entitled cause within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this Summons upon you; and if you fail to do so, answer for want thereof, the Plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded therein. 1. ON PLAINTIFF'S FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF: 1.1 On Count I, for judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant in the sum of \$10,438.91, together with the sum of \$379.86, which represents unpaid contractual interest and late charges through and including August 24, 2007, together with interest on the principal sum of \$10,438.91, at the rate of 10% per annum from August 24, 2007, until paid, and reimbursement for Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys fees, costs and disbursements incurred herein; 1.2 On Count II: (a) For a decree declaring that Plaintiff's force-placed insurance on the Vehicle in the amount of \$1,609.00, together with Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys fees, costs and disbursements incurred herein; (b) For judgment and decree that Plaintiff's security interest be foreclosed and that the 1997 BMW be sold by the Sheriff of Lane County, Oregon, in the manner provided by law, and that the proceeds of sale be applied as follows: (i) To the costs and expenses of sale; (ii) To the satisfaction of Plaintiff's costs and disbursements and judgment for Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees; (iii) To the satisfaction of Plaintiff's judgment in the sum of \$10,438.91, together with the sum of

\$379.86, which represents unpaid contractual interest and late charges through and including August 24, 2007, together with interest on the principal sum of \$10,438.91, at the rate of 10% per annum from August 24, 2007, until paid. 1.3 As against Defendant, for an order requiring Defendant to immediately surrender possession of the collateral which is the subject of this action, to Plaintiff and for an order of replevin awarding possession to Plaintiff and directing the Sheriff of Lane County or the sheriff of the county in which the collateral is located to immediately locate and seize said collateral and return the same to Plaintiff. 2. ON PLAINTIFF'S SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF: 2.1 On Count I (Breach of Contract), for judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant in the sum of \$2,022.50, together with interest thereon at the rate of 9% per annum from May 17, 2007, until paid, together with Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys fees, costs and disbursements incurred herein; 2.2 On Count II (Fraud), for judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant in the sum of \$2,022.50, together with interest thereon at the rate of 9% per annum from May 17, 2007, until paid, together with Plaintiff's reasonable attorneys fees, costs and disbursements incurred herein; 2.3 On Count III (Unjust Enrichment), for judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant in the sum of \$2,022.50, together with interest thereon at the rate of 9% per annum from May 17, 2007, until paid. NOTICE TO DEFENDANT READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the Court a legal paper called a "motion" or "answer." The "motion" or "answer" must be given to the court clerk or administrator within thirty (30) days along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the Plaintiff's attorney or, if the Plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the Plaintiff. If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. If you need help in finding an attorney, you may call the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-7636. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Date of first publication: December 20, 2007. Date of last publication: January 10,

2008. Thomas M. Orr, OSB #88282 Hutchinson Cox Coons DuPriest Orr & Sherlock PC, 777 High Street, Suite 200, Eugene, OR 97401. (541) 686-9160.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of: ETHEL L. SWEANEY, Deceased. Case No. 50-07-25837 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS. NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT ROBERT COLE TOZER has been appointed Personal Representative in this Estate. All persons having claims against the Estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached to the Personal Representative Robert Cole Tozer, Attorney at Law, 96 E. Broadway, Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401, (541) 345-0795, within four months of the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative. DATED and first published December 27, 2007. Personal Representative ROBERT COLE TOZER.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF LANE In the Matter of the Marriage of: JUAN CARLOS SAPIEN, Petitioner, and CARRIE NORTCUTT, Respondent. Case No. 150725937 SUMMONS DOMESTIC RELATIONS SUIT. The petitioner has filed a Petition asking for Summons Dissolution of Marriage. If you do not file the appropriate legal paper with the court in the time required (see below), the petitioner may ask the court for a judgment against you that orders the relief requested. NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY! You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear", you must file with the Court a legal paper called a "Response" or "Motion." This paper must be given to the Court within thirty (30) days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and you must show that the petitioner's attorney (or the petitioner if he or she does not have an attorney) was served with a copy of the "Response" or "Motion." Response forms may be available through your local court located at: 125 E. 8th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401. The first date of publication was: December 27, 2007.

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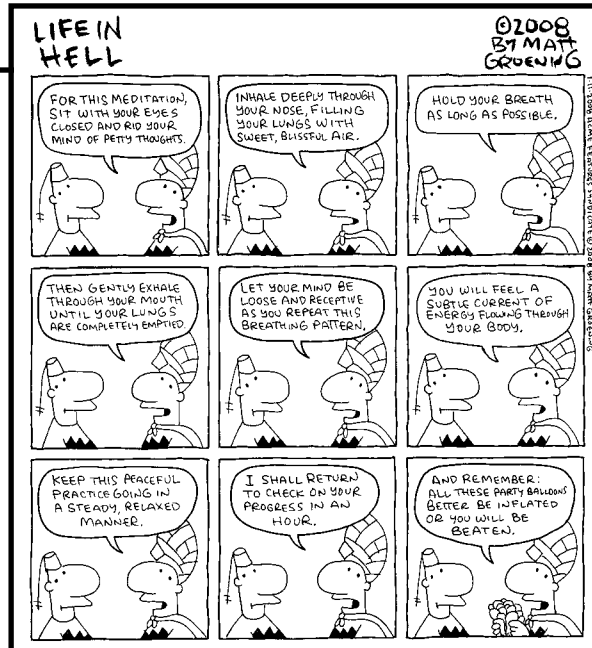
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WRITERS WANTED The Academy for Alternative Journalism, established by papers like this one to promote diversity in the alternative press, seeks talented journalists and students (college seniors and up) for a paid summer writing program at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. The eight-week program (June 22 - August 17, 2008) aims to recruit talented candidates from diverse backgrounds and train them in alt-weekly style feature writing. Ten participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel allowances. For information and an application visit aaj.aan.org. You may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal opportunity educator and employer.(AAN CAN)

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¡ASK A MEXICAN!

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO

Dear Mexican: I feel that the more Mexicans who come to this country, the better. I am a Mormon, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In our Book of Mormon, on page 54, it says on the left side of the page in verse 6, "There shall none come into this land save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord." I want as many Mexicans in this country as possible, and then I want to tell them about Joseph Smith and get them baptized and enjoy the blessings of the temple. Come on down — you are welcome by me. — Love my Brown Brothers



Dear Gabacho: Gracias for your welcoming heart, even if your ulterior motive is stealing Mexicans away from the Virgin of Guadalupe for a religion requiring magic underwear. While we're talking about Moroni worshippers, can you do me a favor and ask Mitt Romney why he's such an ingrate toward Mexicans? After all, Romney would've probably been some Jack Mormon jerk-off if it weren't for porous fronteras and living in vio-

lation of a country's laws. His great-grandfather Miles Park Romney fled los Estados Unidos for Mexico during the 1880s to escape American authorities and continue his polygamous ways, while Mitt's papi George was born in Chihuahua and therefore more Mexican than your typical Chicano Studies major. Not only that, but Pancho Villa's troops were kind enough to not massacre Mormon colonies during the Mexican Revolution, thus allowing the infant George and his family to return home and ensure Mitt's Brilliantined hair would grace America. One final point, Brown Brothers: por favor tell Mitt and all other Mexican-hating LDSers that the Book of Mormon requires amnesty for illegals. The above quote you cited came from the Second Book of Nephi and is a wonderful passage, but what about the one before it? 2 Nephi 1:5 tells the Saints that Lehi prophesized about America, "Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord." Hear that, Mitt? Let my gente go — into the United States with free health care, por supuesto.

How can a white guy learn how to type in Spanish? Not learn the language — how do you make the keyboard type Spanish characters? — Carpal Tunnel Cabrón

Dear Gabacho: It depends on what operating system you use and what you're trying to type. To make an acute accent appear on a Macintosh, hold down the Option key, hit the E key, release Option, then type the vowel you want accented. Spanish's other diacritics get registered roughly the same way. An umlaut appears by pressing Option, hitting the U key, releasing Option and hitting U again; do the same if you want a tilde, but substitute the N key for U. For upside-down exclamation points, hold down Option and hit the 1 key — ¡Voila! An upside-down question mark is a bit trickier — hold down Option plus Shift, then punch the question-mark key, ¿comprende?

Microsoft Word is somewhat trickier. Upside-down exclamation points and question marks require you push Control plus Alt plus Shift, then type whatever you want flipped around. Acute accents pop up after you hold down Control, then hit the apostrophe key; release and type in your vowel. A tilde: Control+Shift+squiggly mark, release, the letter N. Both Macs and Microsoft require you hold the Shift key after executing the above instructions if you want a diacritic to top a capital letter. And remember, people: no grave accents in Spanish, or tildes on letters other than n — that's the domain of the mongrel tongue known as Portuguese.

Got a spicy question about Mexicans? Ask the Mexican at themexican@askamexican.net. Letters will be edited for clarity, cabrones. And include a hilarious pseudonym, por favor, or we'll make one up for you!

Gustavo Arellano is an investigative reporter on staff at the OC Weekly in Orange County, California. His "¡Ask a Mexican!" column began in 2004 and today is syndicated in 32 publications nationwide. He is also the author of a book by the same name. An extensive interview with Arellano can be found in the EW archives online for Nov. 29, 2007.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"I Curse You"

-but I'm keeping it nice.

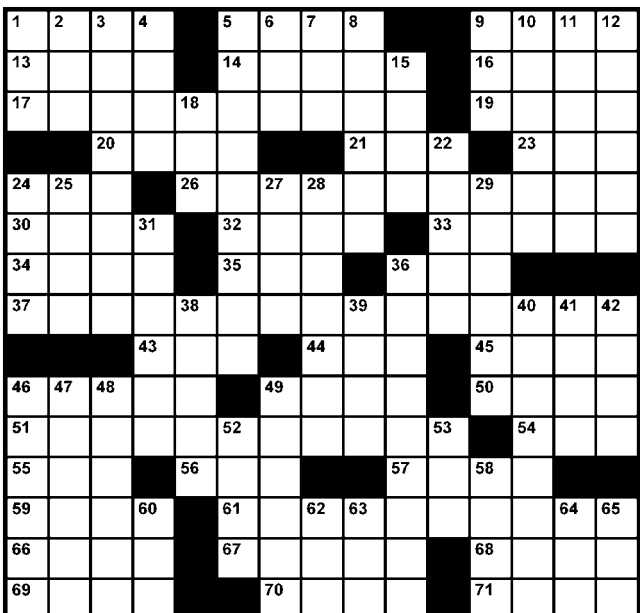
Across

- One voice
- Math course, for short
- Way to serve coffee
- Imports
- Sophia (Istanbul landmark)
- Feng
- "This bug spray's doing me no good..."
- Helgenberger of "CSI" and "China Beach"
- Soil type
- Pink can drink
- Word before a maiden name
- "No ___ didn't!"
- "The Clintons' old cat just scratched me again..."
- Govt. watchdog arm
- "X-Men" villain with leaping ability
- Pay for others
- Bausch & Lomb brand
- Disreputable newspaper
- gow (gambling game)

- "I just burned all the meat for the picnic..."
- Possible tic-tac-toe line
- "Can ___ least get ready first?"
- Skater Kulik
- In any way
- Colleges, in German slang
- Make out
- "I can't believe I just got three strikes..."
- Not neg.
- Tin Tin
- Nile biter
- Actor Wyle
- "In the same place," in footnotes
- "I hate that screaming 'So You Think You Can Dance' judge..."
- Showed up
- Suckle
- When the time comes that
- Law professor Dershowitz

- Suffix after party or theater
- RBI or RISP
- Cop call
- Word in many kid rap-pers' names
- David Duchovny's wife
- About
- Movie with the line "There is no spoon"
- "Gnarly!"
- "Can ___ now?"
- Like smart kids
- End of a belief?
- Monopoly card
- "I've got it!"
- Take a breather from eating
- "Nobody creates ___ it just happens." -- Jim Henson
- Grunge band whose final album was 1995's "Infrared Riding Hood"
- Rigel, for example
- Peon
- Command to a dog
- Light red or brown, in

- horse colors
- Like some doubts
- Starting point
- Dome-shaped structure
- Anesthetizes
- Music in some "Weird Al" Yankovic medleys
- "Scott ___ is 45...and Single"
- in the room
- Part of a Caribbean island
- Fifth Avenue store
- South
- Like "Survivor" coun-cils
- 1996 Tool album that went triple platinum
- Disconnect
- Publishing ID
- It may come with a choking hazard warn-ing
- John of "Good Times"
- Study
- Gold, to Guillermo
- Three letters in ingredient lists that denote "sugar"
- Building (former name of an NYC skyscraper)
- Up to this point



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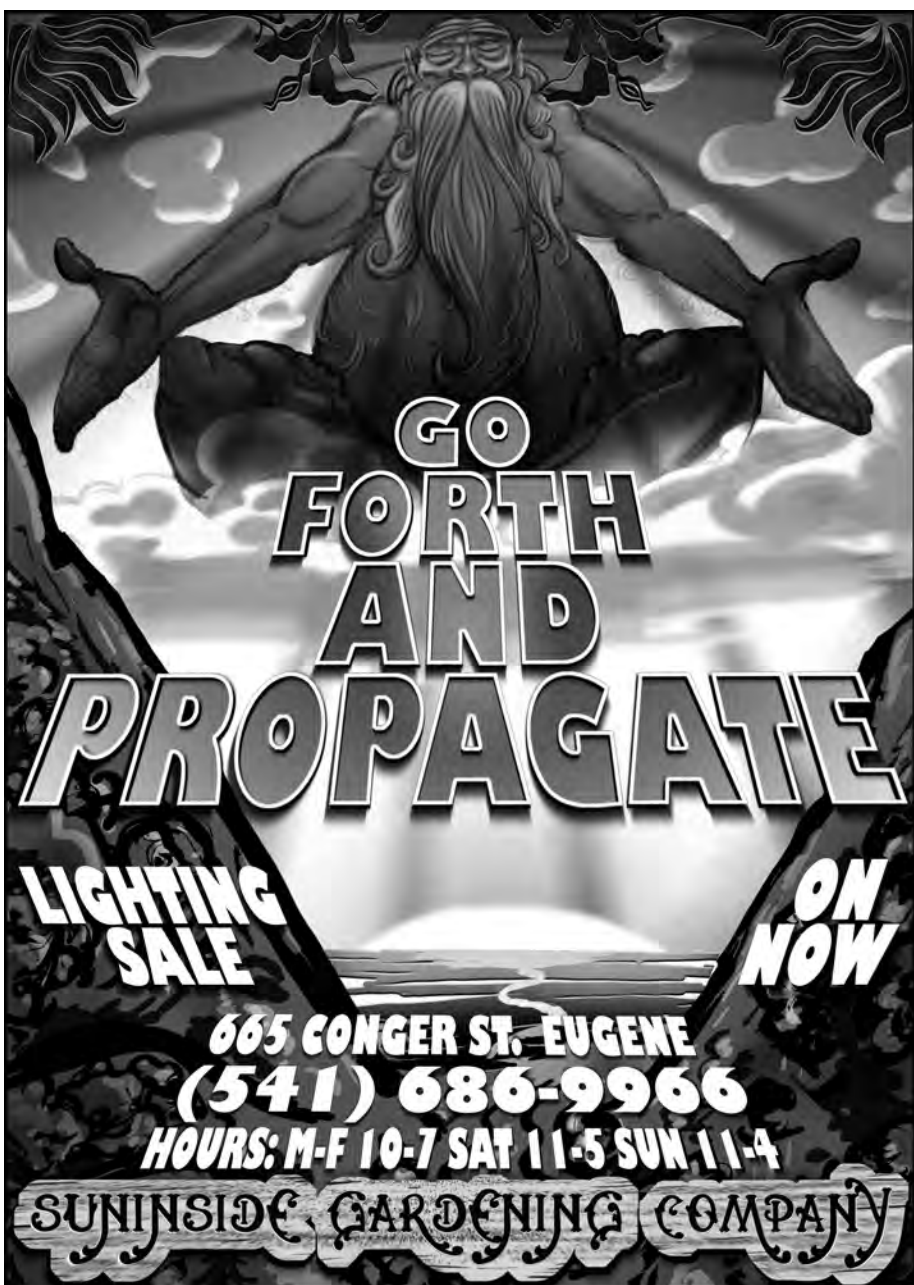


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Sudoku

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6			7	3				
	7		5			6	1	
	9			1				
							6	5
8		6				4		3
3	2							
				2			7	
	4	9			1		8	
				7	6			4

Place numbers 1-9 so that each row, column and 3x3 square has each number only once. There is only one solution. Good Luck! Stumped? Visit www.sudokuplace.com for a puzzle solver.

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LIKE OUTDOORS
I am a SWF, over 40, looking for a guy who wants to hike, talk, dance, go to coast, try surfing if there's time, go out to eat. ☛ 2483

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men seeking women

NEED HEALTHY WOMAN
Handsome, 6'2", SWM, 41, financially secure, NS, ND, disease-free, ISO same in SWF 21-40 with healthy self-esteem, self supporting, seeking LT friendship and sensual encounters, no strings. ☛ 2573

BORED?
Looking for bored, sexy, trim lady but a slut in bed. I'll make your world turn. Oral pleasures, oh god-I'm 50, 165 lbs, std free, ns. Don't wait. ☛ 2536

VEGETARIAN?
Easy to look at, 40 yr. old, non-conformist. Athletic build, into art, hiking, biking, gardening. Looking to meet eco-conscious woman, 30-50, who is fit and looking for adventure. ☛ 2571

LOOKING FOR CHANGE
If you're looking for adventure or just bored, let's talk; make a plan; a lot of money; friendship, fun and love or what ever! Nothing to lose? ☛ 2570

QUIET EVENINGS
Handsome, athletic 43 yo guy, 6', 190 lbs. financially secure, seeking cool, attractive female 28-45 who enjoys dining in or out, movies, hiking and the outdoors, quiet evenings together. ☛ 2547

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Semiretired man, 58 yo, financially secure, seeking lady 45-60 for companionship. Love traveling, outdoors and would like to meet you. ☛ 2546

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Experienced dad misses beautiful bellies and conscious pregnancy. Have soft touch and strong male presence to share on all levels. ☛ 2538

BREAST CONNECTION
Author exploring the power and magic of breasts and Woman would like to meet both. Small, average, lactating? Very sensitive? Feel pleasure? Want more? Indulge! ☛ 2537

ENTRANCED
The fact of life entrances me. When not accepting it blindly, I find it magic and erotic. I can perceive it intensely, as in an experience of a forest stream in winter; the look of well-formed, strong bodies; the sensitivity of hands; or the beauty of movement, as in running, dancing or smiling. I don't perceive such things often at this time of impending harm to us all, but think I will more often if I share. If sharing seems interesting, call or write blind box entranced. I am slender, strong, gentle, > 60. ☛ 2535

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women seeking women

GIRL FRIEND WANTED
Dirty old farm boy 44, need to sow my wide oat's so you better lock up your daughter or there going to be a shot gun wedding. N/D. N/S. virgin. ☛ 2489

BI WOMEN'S GROUP
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GODDESS WANTED
WM Seeking slim sensual spiritual goddess. We enter spiritual-erotic connection, I feel your Goddess energy, honor & worship you. Tender hands massage you, talented lips & tongue to devour you, everywhere. ☛ 2486



ELIJAH & NAOMI
He speaks of the bible w/ long white hair and she makes colorful candles in their new bus from Yuba. We NEED to get in touch with you and haven't heard back in weeks. We were trying help you through love & kindness, but you stole our generosity and took it to the bank! Can ANYONE help us locate this couple? REWARD for information-Peace & Blessings..(longer-look@gmail.com).

NO OPTICAL ILLUSION
Neva: You and I met on Saturday afternoon at your campus location 12/29/07. You adjusted my glasses twice. And with crystal clear vision it was truly a pleasure to witness all aspects of your beauty and to talk with you. Would you consider joining me for coffee, tea, or a glass of wine? R.J. ☛ 2544

BARBRA RED
Barbra sometimes red sometimes blond. I wait for you at Max's but you never are there. Please come by! ☛ 2543

NYE OPERA PARTY
U: tall pinot drinking jazz talker. Me: tall blonde in olive dress. Wish I would have sat next to you rather than my mom. Jazz and pinot? ☛ 2542

34TH & PEARL 12/28
You killed my black & white cat in broad daylight and just drove off! You just lost all your karma points! Each shit you insensitive ASSHOLE!!! ☛ 2541

21ST B-DAY DINNER
Dec. 26 I left a cd and a bucket full of little bottles of alcohol... If you don't return it, I hope you enjoy it. ☛ 2539

BOOTH 33
At Holiday Market. I really liked your artwork. Curious about you too. Returned next day but you had flown away. In Eugene? Coffee or tea on me. ☛ 2534

MARKET OF CHOICE
Dec. 22 AM. I was buying mandarins. You were wearing a cobalt blue jacket and your smile was radiant. I would like to talk. ☛ 2533

NESS
It's been about a year. Thought we'd always be friends. Guess you never really cared. Would love to hear from you. Hope you're doing okay. ☛ 2532

LIL BOX SLAMMER
You: sexy counterfitter, looked at me like prey. Me: Sexy little box slammer. Lets do it upside down and backwards! Find me. Want to treat you like a King. ☛ 2531

free will astrology BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "My calling hasn't called yet," wrote Rennie, an Aries reader from Austin. "Please, Rob, say a prayer to all the applicable gods and angels, asking them to do whatever it takes to make sure that I am at home when it finally does." I've got good news for Rennie. Many Aries who have never before had a hint about their calling will be able to gather many clues in 2008. Meanwhile, those of your tribe who have already found their higher purpose will be evolving it to a much deeper level. To help ensure that all the magic unfolds, I have unleashed a fist-pumping prayer to the goddess of mission plans, urging her to invite you Rams to claim the empowering joy that comes from being united with your source code.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The longest waves on the planet unfurl in the place where the Atlantic Ocean flows into the mouth of the Amazon River. The phenomenon is called the "pororoca" (from a word meaning "tumultuous noise"), and has become a favorite challenge for surfers. In 2003, a Brazilian daredevil named Picuruta Salazar rode a single wave for 37 minutes, gliding and plowing for almost eight miles. Judging from your current astrological omens, Taurus, I'd say that's an apt metaphor for the kind of wave you now have the chance to jump on. If you choose to give it a whirl, don't plan for a short sweet burst of adrenaline. Be ready for a long, rollicking balancing act.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is a very favorable time to discover what has been hidden from you, to strip away disguises, and to penetrate to the real story that has been buried by the official propaganda. You're also likely to generate luck if you go in search of buried treasure, lost keys, and missing links. To help you achieve success in these noble if sometimes stealthy goals, keep in mind the advice of inventor George Washington Carver: "Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Mirrors can be powerful tools and useful symbols for you in the coming days. When is the last time you gazed serenely into your own eyes for at least ten minutes? Try it! If you're brave, go on from there: Actually talk to the interesting creature you see reflected back at you. Ask questions. Give advice. Sing songs. And if you're even braver, move on to the next project: Bring a friend or loved one to the mirror, and converse with each other's images. Tell each other the kinds of raw, shimmering truths that can only be revealed in a mirror.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): At the Plow & Hearth stores, you can buy realistic boulders "to disguise your yard problems." These gigantic plastic monstrosities, which sell for \$90, are hollow inside and fit right over the pipes, holes, and other eyesores you want to hide. In the coming days, Leo, you might want to consider acquiring a metaphorical version of this item. There's a big old messy

place in your kingdom that seems to be getting bigger and messier. It's high time to either conceal it or clean it up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The U.K. newspaper *The Independent* reports that avid reader Mark Bastable consumed the collected works of D.H. Lawrence and found "not a single laugh, not a wry chuckle, not even a quiet grin in the entire po-faced oeuvre." If that's true, I say we put an asterisk on the covers of his books, similar to the mark that will go on the home run record of the allegedly steroid-enhanced baseball star Barry Bonds. In D.H.'s case, the asterisk will denote that he won a place in the literature hall of fame despite having never expressed the second-most essential human emotion. In any case, Virgo, don't you dare read Lawrence in the next four weeks. You need to be surrounded by influences that will encourage you to look for humor and amusement in every single thing you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In 15 million years, Los Angeles will be a suburb of San Francisco. It will take that long for the constant slipping of the San Andreas Fault to push the southern city 400 miles north. That will be lucky for the people alive then, since they won't have to travel far to enjoy the distinctive pleasures of two of the West Coast's finest cultural centers. In your case, Libra, you don't have to wait so long. I predict that two of your personal centers of gravity will combine by the end of 2008. Your divided sense of home will disappear, allowing you to feel more united than you've been in years.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Why does human anatomy include the organ known as the appendix? For centuries, doctors have been unable to determine its purpose. Most have decided it's unnecessary, a vestigial structure left over from an earlier stage of evolution. But recent research suggests the conventional wisdom has to be revised. In fact, the appendix seems to protect and regenerate the good bacteria that live in the intestines. I predict that you're on the verge of a metaphorically comparable discovery, Scorpio. Something you have always considered to be useless or irrelevant will reveal its value.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Astronomers say that the Sagittarius Galaxy is being devoured by our own galaxy. It's getting stretched, rearranged, and assimilated by our massive gravity. I'd like to offer up this scenario as a metaphor for you to put into play in the coming week, Sagittarius. Imagine all the fun and interesting ways that you yourself could be "eaten." Maybe you could get absorbed into an exciting social scene, or be integrated into an institution you love, or become part of a movement you've admired from afar. And maybe you could simply do what's necessary to get yourself kissed, licked, and sucked all over.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The Wind Horse is a mythical creature in Tibetan Buddhist tradition. Symbolizing vigorous life force, it embodies the quick, cleansing power of the wind and the primal vitality of the horse. In accordance with your astrological omens, Capricorn, I nominate this archetype to be your ruling metaphor in the coming weeks. Visualize yourself being accompanied by a Wind Horse everywhere you go. See yourself riding it, feeding it, playing with it. Call on its inspiring presence as you align yourself with the natural beneficence of the universe. Ask it to help you sweep obstacles out of the way as you attract a flow of opportunities to open your mind and heart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This will be an excellent week for you to buy \$50 worth of silence. And to hang around people who won't try to coax you or manipulate you into doing anything. And to wander out into a barren wilderness – the Mars-like landscape of the crater near the summit of Maui's Mt. Haleakala would be ideal – and howl wordless, senseless, empty-headed melodies to a god who may or may not exist. Do you catch my drift, Aquarius? You are likely to attract cosmic luck and generate useful serendipity if you can achieve a state that combines Zen Buddhism's "beginner's mind" with the attitude Henry Miller enjoyed when he said, "I have no money, no resources, no hopes. I am the happiest man alive."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "The stars would love to influence your future," reported a horoscope for Pisces in *The Onion* newspaper, "but they are powerless against your well-established patterns of behavior." While this might sometimes be an accurate statement, it's not true now. The next three weeks will be a very favorable time for you to escape well-established patterns of behavior, especially the ones that are no damn good for you. Here's a bonus perk: You will also have marked success if you not only rebel against your habits but also against the stars' influence. The upshot of all this good news is that you'll be in prime time to unleash your freest free will.

HOMEWORK: Make three predictions about your life in 2008. Tell me at RealAstrology.com; click on "Email Rob."

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Savage Love

WORDS OF PURE WISDOM by Dan Savage



*Please disregard my previous e-mail. As of the New Year, my girlfriend is no longer a virgin.
No Longer Dating Virgin Girl*

Uh, gee. Sorry about that, NLDVG.

I'm not sorry that your girlfriend is no longer a virgin, of course, as virginity is a scourge that I've dedicated my life to stamping out. I'm sorry that I was unable to assist you. I could fob you off, I suppose, with that dodge favored by professional advice columnists everywhere: "The volume of the mail I receive prevents me from answering every letter I receive blah blah blah."

While it's true that I receive more letters than I could ever possibly respond to (if your question doesn't appear in the column within three weeks, people, you're on your own), that wasn't the case with your letter.

Fact is, NLDVG, I didn't answer your question because I was stumped. I didn't know what the hell to tell you about the particular issues you raised in your original letter.

When you write an advice column, gentle readers, it looks like you have all the answers because you only run questions for which you have answers. This is as it should and must be; we advice professionals need people to think we have all the answers so that they'll keep sending us their questions. But this scam has a cruel and unintended consequence: When we don't respond to a question, the reader who sent it thinks, "He/she doesn't care," or "He/she is too busy," or "He/she thought my question wasn't interesting." When the reality may be that he/she has no fucking clue. And here, to mark the New Year, are a few other letters that I haven't answered for want of a clue.

I'm a guy into she-male porn, and I've noticed that almost all the models in said porn have very tight scrotums. Like they're cold. So I'm wondering, what's the deal? Is it just the hormones? Or do they employ some kind of preshoot scrotal-tightening technique? A bit of both, perhaps?

Never Understood Tranny Scrotums

There's this new pastor at the church I visit. She's gorgeous, an athlete, and can read ancient Greek. I've managed to get her to lunch twice, despite her schedule, and I spelled out my interest explicitly. She seemed receptive, posited that dating someone in her new congregation could possibly cause issues, but may go hiking with me this weekend. So what's the protocol for dating a smokin'-hot priestess?

Not Very Good Xian

I am a gay man who has been in a relationship with my partner for nine years. My lover has always planned on undergoing a sex change, from male to female. There were money and health problems, but he's ready now. I've always told him that I love him, no matter what. Now he's gotten his breast implants and I have to admit I am completely weirded out by them. I feel like a hypocrite, but I don't know what to do! I've never been with a woman, and I don't want to be with one now. I also love my partner intensely. Any advice? I feel like a jerk! Support him for nine years and then peace out because of boobs?

Hating Myself And His Breasts

I'm 23, straight, and female. I have a fairly ravenous sexual appetite, and particularly enjoy administering oral sex to my lucky lovers. Unfortunately, I've happened upon (what seems to be) a unique dilemma. An hour or so after swallowing particular loads, I get intense stomachaches, quickly transitioning into intense diarrhea. This only occurs with maybe one in five men, and seems to be particular to the individual (i.e., if a man's loads give me the shits, they always give me the shits; if a man's loads don't give me the shits, they never give me the shits).

This has never really been too much of a problem for me in the past—I just didn't call guys back when it occurred—but I have started dating a one-in-fiver who is witty, great in the sack, and gorgeous, and I want to keep seeing him. So I have a few questions for you: (1) Does this happen to anyone else? (2) Is it me or is there something wrong with some guys' semen? (3) Is there any remedy, besides spitting?

Blowing Judiciously

My wife and I enjoy a vigorous BDSM lifestyle and take part in some pretty heavy activities. One we haven't tried but are anxious to is Tabasco sauce on mucous membranes, e.g., nostrils, clit, and anal tissues. Our question: What would we use to cool the burn should the application of Tabasco sauce to her anus or clit prove to be too much for her to endure?

Master & Servant

I'm a gay man living in San Francisco. There are a couple of guys I'm into. Like an actual couple. I've messed around with each of them separately, and in both cases I was told to keep it hush-hush because the other didn't know that he was being messed around on. My problem is not about their dishonesty or any of that bullshit. It's none of my business. What I really want to know is this: How can I get them both in the sack at the same time?

Trying To Double Down

I'm a 19-year-old lesbian with the dyke equivalent of the "does size matter" problem: I have a really short tongue. Is there anything I can do? Or does "size" really not matter?

Tongue Tied Teen

Four years ago, my girlfriend and I made a sex tape. After we broke up, I continued to watch the video, finding myself more turned on by the action now that she was out of my life. I started taking pictures with my digital camera off the television, and before long I was putting these images of her on the internet for others to comment on. The tape is graphic, with clear shots of her face as she goes down on me, masturbates, and rides me. I feel terrible—she's a sweet girl and it wasn't a bad breakup—but exposing her has become an uncontrollable turn-on for me. I can't bring myself to throw out the tape, which I feel is the only way I can control this urge. I sound like an awful person, but I can't seem to help myself. Your thoughts?

Slave To Own Penis

Ah, sometimes the answer is so obvious—take STOP's question here. There is only one possible response: "Throw the tape out, you fucking piece of lowlife shit." The damage is already done—those clips and images will live online forever, and one day STOP's ex or her fiancé or her kids or her grandchildren will find them. And then, if there's any justice, they'll find STOP and cut his balls off.

But what of the other letters in this column? I'm stumped. Tabasco sauce on the clit? Not into the boyfriend's new rack? Is there hope for short-tongued dykes? What's up with she-male sacks? And how do you successfully date a Christian minister who has—let's face facts—already given your ass the brush-off? I don't have answers for these folks. If you do, gentle readers, send 'em in and we'll run the mother of all Savage Love web extras sometime in the next couple of weeks.

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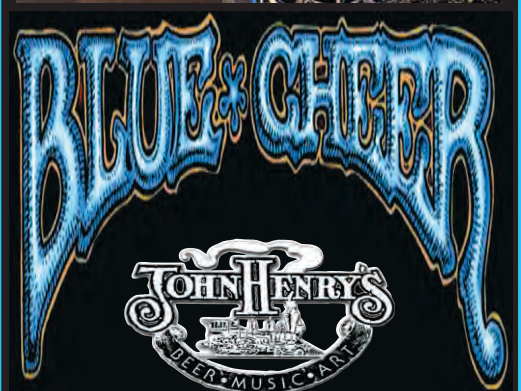
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